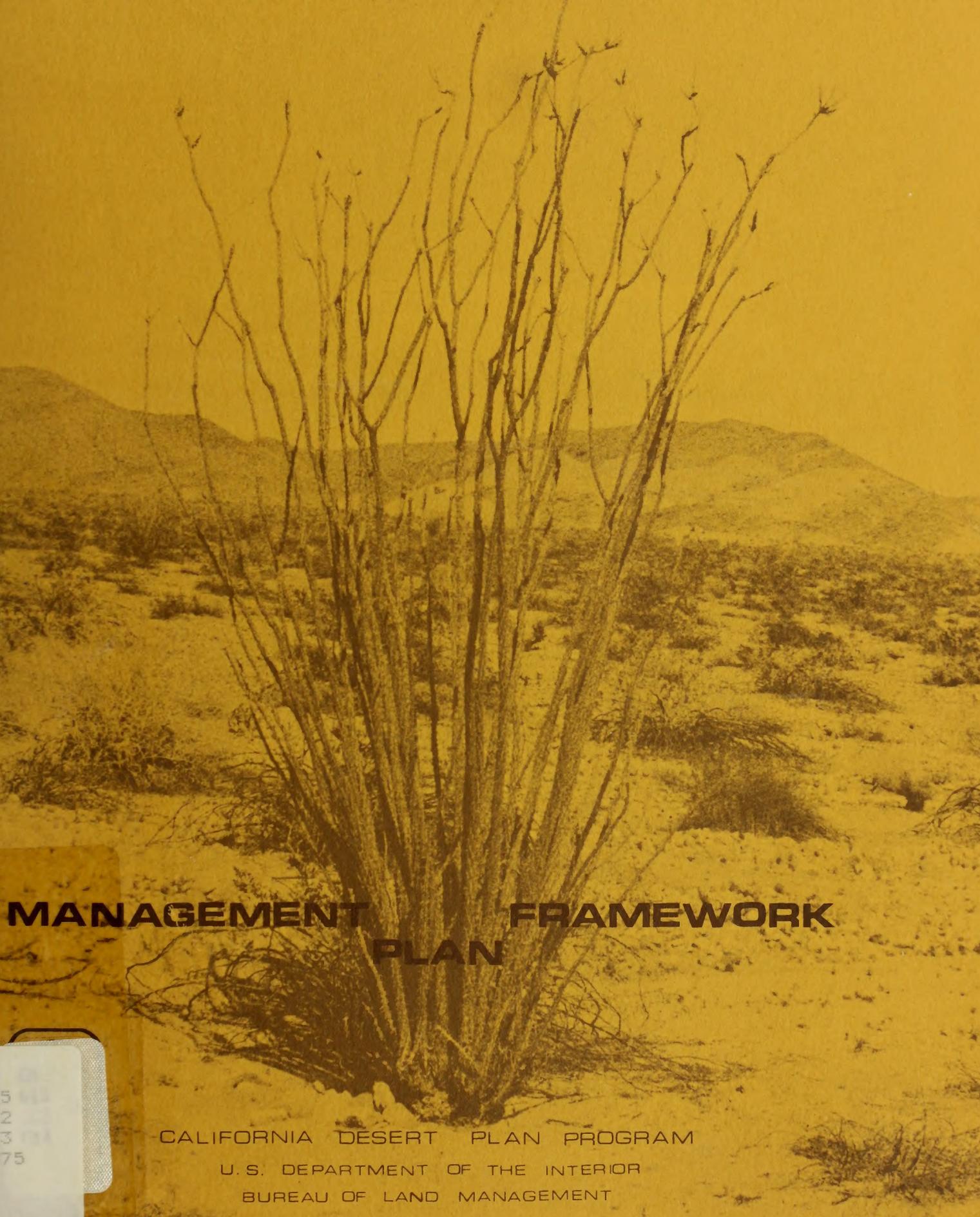


BLM LIBRARY



88025704

CALIFORNIA DESERT



MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN PROGRAM

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

GB
615
.C2
Y83
1975

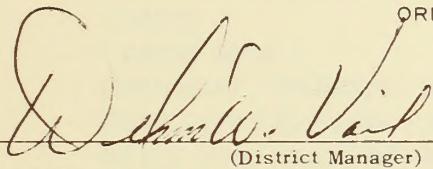
88025704

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
TITLE PAGE

GB
615
C2
483
Denver Federal Center: 1975
BLM Library
D-553A, Building 50
P. O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225-0047

State	California	District	Riverside
Resource Area	Southeast Desert		
Planning Unit	Yuha		
Code	0625	Type	

ORIGINALLY APPROVED


(District Manager)

June 26, 1975
(Date)

REVIEWED AND UPDATED

DISTRICT MANAGER	DATE

YUHA DESERT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

JUNE 26, 1975

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE NUMBER
YUHA SETTING	1
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	2
DEFINITIONS	3
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES OF SPECIFIC AREAS	5
LANDS	8
LANDS MAP I	10
GEOLOGY / ENERGY / MINERALS	11
GEOLOGY / ENERGY / MINERALS MAP II	14
SOILS AND WATERSHED	16
SOILS AND WATERSHED MAP III	18
RECREATION	20
RECREATION MAP IV	26
VEHICLE PLAN	28
VEHICLE PLAN MAP V	30
CULTURAL	32
CULTURAL MAP VI	38
WILDLIFE	40
WILDLIFE MAP VII	44

THE YUHA SETTING

Two hundred years ago Juan Bautista de Anza led the first group of Spanish settlers across the barren Yuha Desert on an historic trek from Mexico to San Francisco. Today, much of the Yuha remains unchanged, a mixed landscape of many moods, including bleached desert flats of uncomparable starkness, hidden cactus gardens, mustard colored badlands, and palm studded canyons. De Anza saw the Yuha as a forbidding place best left behind. Today, this seemingly desolate portion of the Colorado Desert is utilized and increasingly sought out by a variety of users.

The Yuha Planning Unit comprises half a million acres and is situated between the Imperial Valley and the Peninsular Ranges. On the north, it is bounded by the Salton Sea, while the Mexican Border marks its southern limits.

Much of the Yuha Unit occupies a vast geomorphic trough once occupied by a great lake fed by the Colorado River. Lake Cahuilla, the most recent lake, did not dry up until about 300 years ago. Legends even suggest that Spanish galleons sailed across the lake before its disappearance. Ancient shorelines are visible today on the lower slopes of surrounding mountains.

The western margins of the planning unit include the rugged Fish Creek Mountains, Coyote Mountains, Jacumba Mountains and Carrizo Badlands. Carrizo Canyon in Anza Borrego State Park, immediately west of the planning unit, was once an important travel corridor along the old Butterfield Stage route.

The Yuha is a place of peculiarities that excite one's curiosity--a rocky domain rich in fossils that inhabited the sea 13 million years ago; a place where the spiny crucifixion thorn grows, and where ancient men laid out patterns on the ground, called intaglios, centuries ago.

Exceedingly low rainfall coupled with high summer temperatures produce within the Yuha a desert in the most classic sense. Despite the harsh environment, the Yuha supports a wide diversity of plants and animals. Peninsular bighorn still roam the Inkopah Mountains and a variety of birds, small mammals, and reptiles inhabit the Yuha's smoke tree washes. San Sebastian Marsh, a rare surfacing of fresh water in this parched land, provides habitat and haven for many wildlife species including the desert pupfish.

Warm temperatures and clear skies coupled with the Yuha's proximity to the San Diego metropolitan area prompt intensive use of the Yuha by recreationists, a use so heavy that the Yuha was chosen as the first unit for planning in the California Desert by the Bureau of Land Management's Desert Plan Staff. This document is the Bureau's first California Desert unit area plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an integral part of the BLM planning program. This process requires that all interested citizens be given an opportunity to express their views and desires, raise specific issues, and explore the problems and opportunities of the various planning areas throughout the California Desert. The planning process also requires that citizens be involved at important decision points throughout the process of plan development.

Individuals and organizations were given the opportunity to participate at various stages in the process of planning for the Yuha Desert area. In the early stage, a special workshop was held in El Centro for the purpose of identifying issues and surfacing specific concerns held by different segments of the public. Those present at this initial meeting represented a broad spectrum of interest in the Yuha Desert. The comments received from the participants were tabulated by "issue categories" and made available to the public in a report titled "Citizen Participation in the Planning Process for the Yuha Desert Planning Unit."

Contacts were made by BLM staff during the inventory stage of the program to obtain specialized information from knowledgeable individuals, special interest organizations and public agencies.

Following the information gathering and analysis phase of the program, representatives of interested organizations and public agencies were invited to attend a series of "progress report" meetings held in the cities of El Centro and Riverside. The recommendations prepared by the activity specialists (Step I MFP) were discussed at that time and those in attendance were given the opportunity to have their comments placed in the record.

Public interest increased as the program progressed toward the final stages. Five thousand copies of the draft Management Framework Plan were mailed to individuals and to organizations for distribution to their membership.

After careful evaluation of the responses received (about 400), it was decided that a follow-up mailing was needed to answer a number of recurring questions and to outline in some detail alternate solutions being considered for a number of controversial proposals that had received a list of comments.

This Management Framework Plan is the Bureau's official guide to the management decisions on national resource lands within the Yuha Desert area. The Plan elements described herein reflect public input and a commitment by the Bureau to seriously consider the public interest as expressed through citizen participation.

This plan will be reviewed continuously by management and periodically amended to reflect new conditions. The public will again have the opportunity to participate in the plan amendment process.

DEFINITIONS

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY: The natural underground heat of the earth which can be delivered to the surface where it can be either changed to electrical energy or used as it is for heating (or cooling) buildings.

KGRA (Known Geothermal Resource Area): Areas within which, based on geological and/or geophysical evidence, there is potential for a geothermal source. The KGRA is defined by the U.S. Geological Survey Conservation Division.

NATURAL AREAS: Areas of significant natural and/or scenic features which will be managed so as to protect and enhance natural values.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK: A Federal designation for historical and archaeological sites and structures judged to have exceptional value to the Nation as a whole rather than to a particular State or locality. Upon the owner's agreement to adhere to accepted preservation precepts, Landmark designation is recognized by the award of a bronze plaque and a certificate. The program is administered by the National Park Service under the authority of the National Historic Site Act.

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK: A designation for sites listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The registry contains geological or ecological values of such distinctive quality as to be of national significance. The objectives of the Natural Landmarks Program are (1) to encourage the preservation of sites illustrating the geological and ecological character of the United States, (2) to enhance the educational and scientific value of sites thus preserved, (3) to strengthen cultural appreciation of natural history, and (4) to foster a greater concern in the conservation of the Nation's natural heritage.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: A Federal register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects determined to be of local, state or national significance in American History, architecture, archaeology, and culture, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of section 2(b) of the National Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666, 16 U.S.C. 46l) and section 101(a)(I) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915, 16 U.S.C. 470).

OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA: These are established to preserve scenic values and areas of natural wonder. The preservation of these resources in their natural condition is the primary management objective. Access roads, parking areas and public use facilities are normally located on the periphery of the area. The public is encouraged to walk into the area for recreational purposes.

PRIMITIVE AREAS: Lands designated as primitive areas shall be administered for public recreational use in a manner to protect primitive values, and to : (a) allow the free operation of natural ecological succession to the extent feasible for scientific and other study, (b) preserve solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration and primitive recreation values, (c) preserve public values that would be lost if the lands were developed for commercial purposes or passed from Federal ownership, and (d) allow the natural restoration of the primitive character of the lands.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA: These are established and maintained for the primary purpose of research and education. Scientists and educators are encouraged to use research natural areas in a manner that is nondestructive and consistent with the purpose for which the area is established.

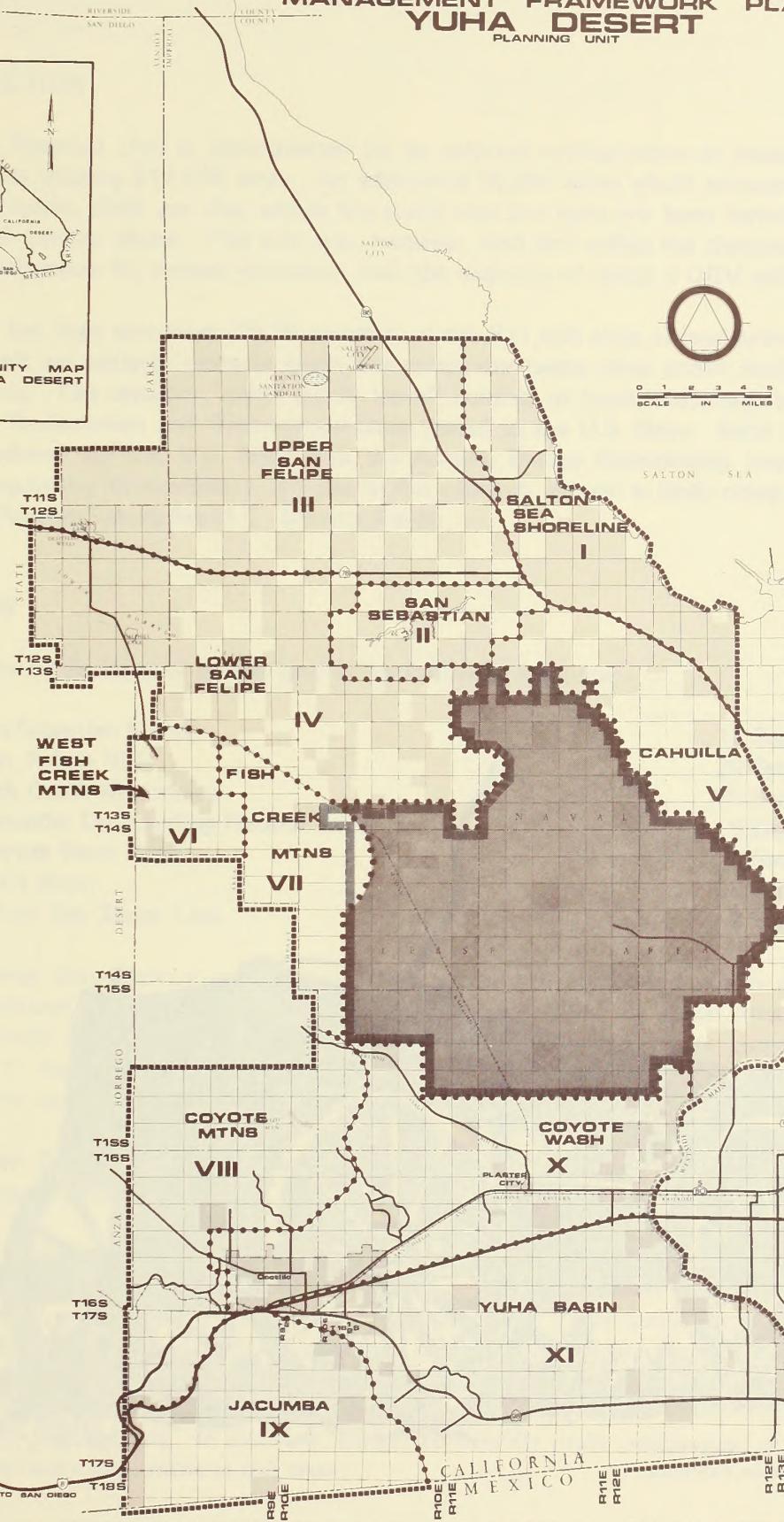
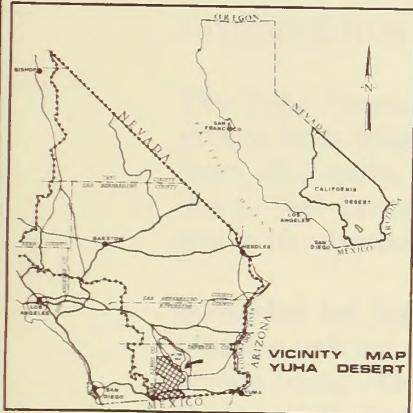
SCENIC CORRIDORS: These designations identify areas where managers decisions should be particularly alert to the protection of scenic values. However, the designation does not apply any particular limitations on off-road vehicle use or other uses which are specifically regulated by other designations.

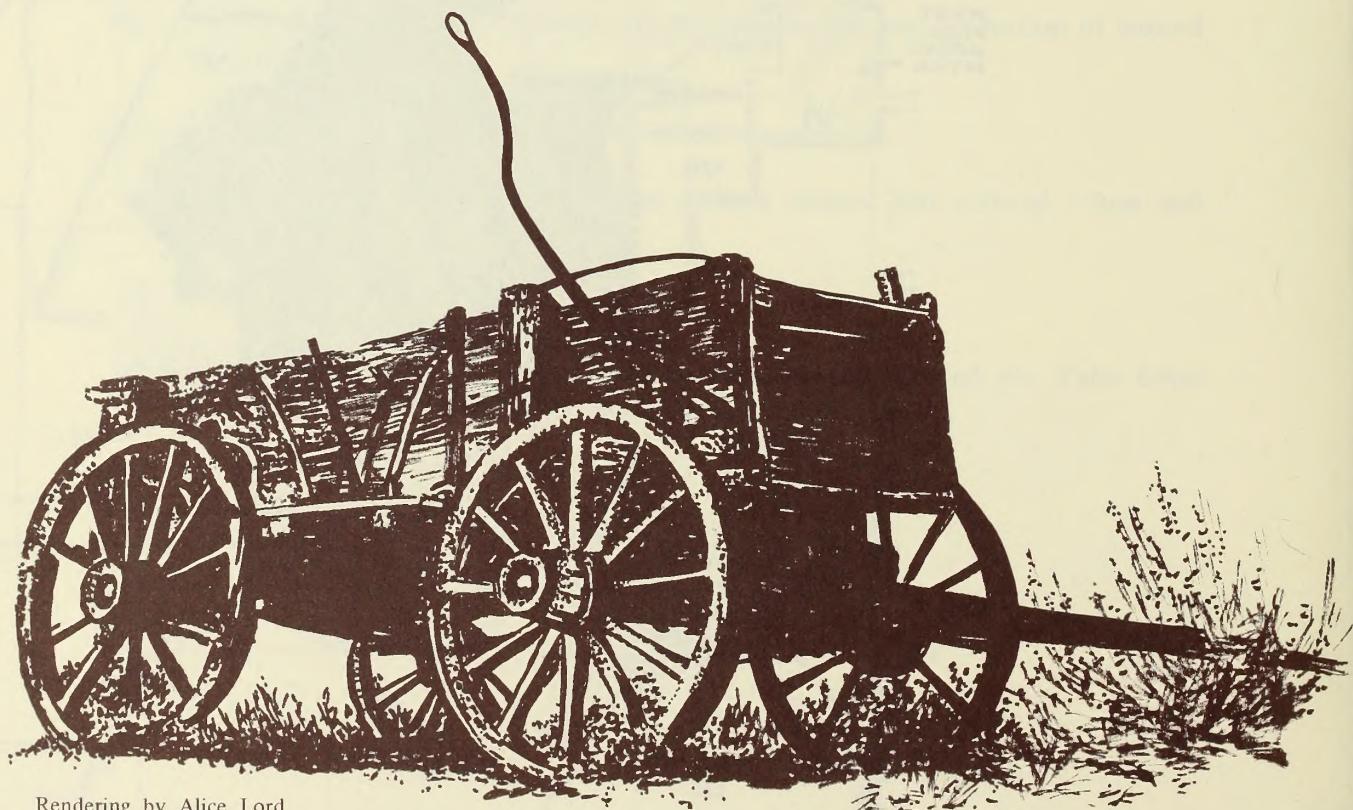


MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
OF
SPECIFIC AREAS

- I. Salton Sea Shoreline - Manage to enhance wildlife habitat for rare and endangered species, water and shore birds along the Salton Sea Shoreline.
- II. San Sebastian - Manage to protect natural and cultural values and watershed.
- III. Upper San Felipe - Block up (land ownership) to improve management effectiveness and protect public facilities and enhancement of vehicle recreation opportunities and reduce trespass across private land.
- IV. Lower San Felipe - Manage for Multiple Use.
- V. Cahuilla - Manage for Multiple Use.
- VI. West Fish Creek Mountains - Manage area primarily for mineral exploration and production.
- VII. Fish Creek Mountains - Manage for the preservation and protection of natural and cultural values.
- VIII. Coyote Mountains - Manage for Multiple Use.
- IX. Jacumba - Manage to preserve and protect natural and cultural values and watershed.
- X. Coyote Wash - Manage for Multiple Use.
- XI. Yuha Basin - Manage to maximize recreation potentials of the Yuha Basin in a manner which will protect its natural and cultural values.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT





Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

LANDS

INTRODUCTION

The Yuha Planning Unit is distinguished by an assorted configuration of public and private lands totaling 511,400 acres. An additional 28,800 acres which surround the town of Ocotillo Wells are also within the study area but have not been inventoried due to their private status. This area was, however, included within the planning unit due to its attraction for various recreation uses--the majority of which is ORV oriented.

Somewhat less than one-third (29.38 percent) of the 511,400 acres of land within the planning unit are national resource lands; the remainder being other public lands and private lands. The category "other public lands" consists of lands withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation and Reclamation lands leased to the U.S. Navy. State lands, lands withdrawn by the U.S. Navy and the Atomic Energy Commission (now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission), are also in this category, as well as lands categorized as "Public Reserve" along the U.S. - Mexico Border.

DECISIONS

1. Acquire 61 Sections of private land in the following locations:

a. San Sebastian Marsh	12 Sections
b. San Felipe Hills	29 Sections
c. Fish Creek Mountains	1½ Sections
d. Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area	6 Sections
e. Coyote Wash Area	3 Sections
f. Yuha Basin	8 Sections
g. Salton Sea Shore Line	2 Sections

The areas shown above are composed of a mixture of public and private lands. The natural, cultural and recreational values identified in these areas are sufficiently valuable to require the acquisition of adjacent private parcels in order to maintain the integrity and long term stability of these environmentally sensitive areas, as well as provide sufficient space for off-road recreation use.

2. Thirteen Sections of government land should be offered as trading stock in a blocking up program.

These lands contain no known valuable natural resources and are either located near major transportation routes or within a potential expansion area of human settlement or completely surrounded by private land. These lands are therefore more valuable to the BLM for exchange purposes for private lands which are adjacent to public lands. Some private lands contain natural or cultural values which are an integral part of the natural and cultural values which exist on adjacent public lands. In addition, budget constraints make purchase of private lands virtually impossible at this time.

3. As a condition of disposal for Plaster City industrial expansion, BLM should require that the County of Imperial prepare and adopt a specific land use plan for proper development of the land including access, development standards and environmental control, i.e., air, noise and water pollution, so that adjacent public land will be protected.

The area shown as suitable for industrial development is adequately served by both rail and highway systems. The area is sufficiently distant from populated areas so as not to be a nuisance to people. Topographically the area is suitable for industrial development. The economy of Imperial County is slowly diversifying its predominately agricultural base to include industrial development.

4. After careful review by the Imperial County Planning Commission of all interspersed public lands lying within Ocotillo-Coyote Wells potential urban growth area, sites identified as needed for public service facilities (schools, buildings, parks) should be reserved for public purposes. Other public land parcels classified for disposal should be used as exchange for other private or state lands.

These lands should be disposed of as soon as possible in order to facilitate and support the efforts of the Imperial County Planning Department to more effectively plan for the future development of the Ocotillo area.

5. Permit utility corridor (general location shown on map) in a manner which will minimize visual intrusion on mountainous landscape and avoid geologically fragile smoke tree washes.

Three alternate alignments were evaluated. The proposed corridor appears to have the least impact on the desert as it traverses an area presently occupied by industrial development.

6. Reserve sites shown on map (east of and adjacent to Coyote Mountains Primitive Area and ridge line south of Smuggler's Cave near the Mexican Border) for potential communication facilities.

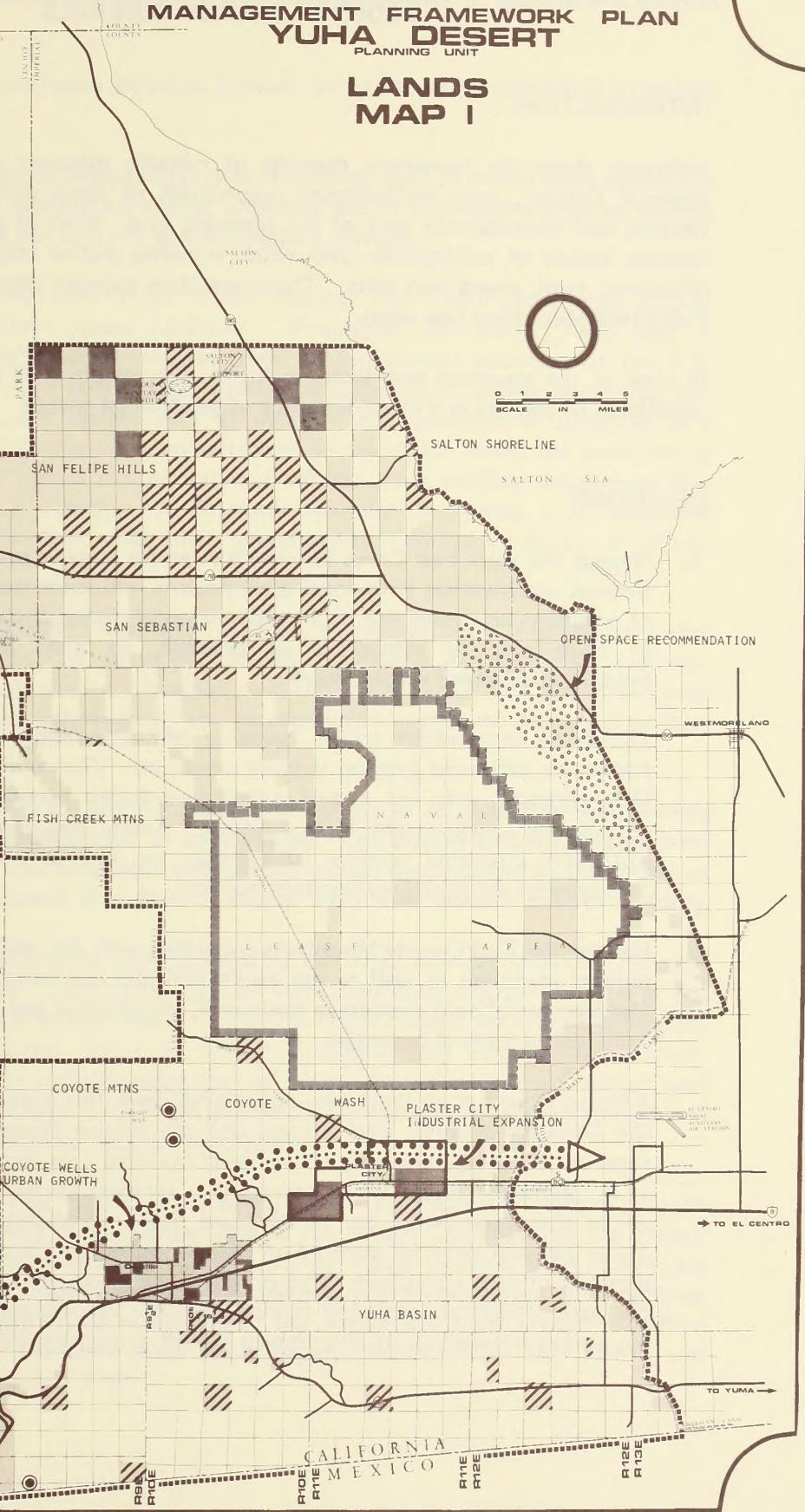
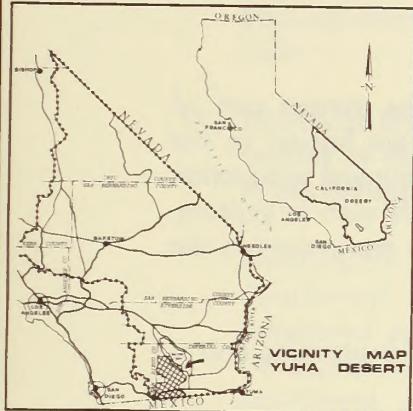
All sites should be evaluated as to visual impact and electronic compatibility. Needed access to develop and use these sites should also be evaluated.

7. Recommend to Imperial County that the long range General Plan be amended to change low density residential land use classification to open space classification. Such classification would be more consistent with the government's intended uses of this area. This recommendation refers to the area adjacent to the north-eastern edge of the parachute test facility.

Virtually all of the land shown in this low density residential classification is in public ownership and utilized for off-road recreation. In addition, it is highly unlikely that these lands will leave public ownership in the foreseeable future.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT

LANDS
MAP I



-LEGEND-
LANDS

- EXCHANGE
- ACQUIRE
- COMMUNICATION SITE
- MAJOR UTILITY CORRIDOR

INTRODUCTION

Although there are numerous deposits of metallic minerals in the eastern part of Imperial County, only insignificant occurrences of these metals are known in the western and mountainous part of the planning unit. Most of the mineral production consists mainly of nonmetallic (industrial) minerals and/or materials such as gypsum, limestone, sand, gravel and salts. The productive gypsum deposits are located in the Fish Creek Mountains (see map).

In view of the structure and tectonic frame, the eastern part of the planning unit is considered of interest as a possible source of geothermal energy.

DECISIONS

8. Manage the west Fish Creek Mountain Area for mineral production and encourage through cooperation with local governments and mine operators: (a) mitigation of pollution and other forms of environmental disturbances and (b) rehabilitation of open pits, as reasonably as possible, to their premining status (both topographically and vegetatively).

This is an area within which measured and economical reserves of gypsum are known to exist and gypsum is being produced. The now operating organization, U.S. Gypsum, has the largest gypsum-producing operation in California and possibly in southwestern United States. Beside this deposit, the area contains additional measured reserves of gypsum, as well as very favorable geological environment for additional gypsum reserves.

9. Manage the East Coyote Mountains consistent with this area's known and potential mineral resources as well as the area's multiple use values. The Bureau of Land Management should encourage geological, geophysical and geochemical surveys to fully realize mineral potential.

Although there is no limestone production from this area at this time, considering the favorable geologic environment and the known limestone deposits (of which some were past producers), this mineral resource area has a near future potential as a significant producer of limestone. Technology has advanced to the point where aluminum metal can be obtained from rich-aluminum clays. The United States imports over 90 percent of its aluminum ore (bauxite). Should there be deposits of rich aluminum clays in the Yuha area, the very likely production in the early 1980's of electrical power from the existing geothermal resource close by, makes production of aluminum a logical, attractive and desirable development.

10. Obtain data on geothermal potential from lease applicants for geologic and mineral interpretive use.

This will increase our data base and provide for better interpretation on a regional scale.

11. Initiate an interagency (including private enterprise) plan to define more accurately sources of higher geothermal energy potential within prospective areas as defined in the Geothermal Act of 1970 and subsequent policies.

Immediately to the east of the Yuha Planning Unit there are several Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRA). Practically the whole Yuha unit is considered as land valuable prospectively for geothermal resources by the U.S. Geological Survey (see potential geothermal area on Map). Based on existing, but insufficient data, the eastern part of the unit has considerable potential as a geothermal area. Technology has advanced to the point where the problems of saline geothermal waters can be handled. It has been publicly announced that within one year a decision will be made whether to develop a 50 megawatt geothermal electric plant. This plant would produce electricity by late 1970's or early 1980's.

In view of the National Geothermal Act and the energy crisis it is necessary that geothermal resources be developed within reasonable environmental controls. With proper management a favorable socio-economic impact will result, not only in this area but also nationally, if the geothermal resources are developed as soon as possible.

12. Consideration should be given to the potential use of some land in the planning unit for possible development of solar energy. The Bureau of Land Management should encourage and cooperate with others toward development of this source of energy. The proposed Way Station should be a solar climate control building.

The climate and geomorphology of most of the Yuha unit are favorable for solar energy production. The technology of terrestrial solar energy conversion has been developed to a limited extent. As it now (1974) stands the cost of converting solar energy to useful forms of energy is higher than conventional sources. However, in view of the increasing cost of energy from conventional sources, and with increasing research and development (R&D) advances, the two costs will eventually equilibrate and become competitive.

The Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Act assigning \$50 million for such work has been passed in the House and in the Senate. In addition, the Energy Resource and Development Act (H.R. 13565) which includes solar energy has been passed in the Senate. If solar development programs continue, it is predicted that building-heating could reach public use within less than 5 years, building-cooling by 1980, synthetic fuels from organic materials by late 1970's and electricity production by 1985.

13. Survey potential sand and gravel areas for other resources before sale of materials and issue of use permits.

This will protect wildlife, cultural and other resource values and be consistent with multiple-use objectives.

14. Any proposed land action should be checked against identified areas of potential sand and gravel deposits. Should the proposed area of action lie within an identified potential sand and gravel area, geological and geophysical surveys should be conducted as a prior input to a management decision.

In 1968 it was predicted (Goldman, California Division of Mines and Geology, Bulletin 180-C) that the then existing sand and gravel deposits in southern California would be depleted in 20 years. Also at that time, economic limit for hauling was 50 miles (80 km), and the trend towards increasing the haulage distance was already estimated. The Yuha Planning Unit is approximately 80 to 90 miles (128-144 km) from San Diego which is one of the fast growing urban areas in California. The pressure of urban growth, not only from San Diego, but also from neighboring Imperial Valley, is being felt. The very likely, if not imminent, development of the geothermal resource in Imperial Valley will make tremendous local growth. All these point strongly toward the need of setting aside, now, high-quality sand and gravel deposits for future local use and export.

15. Sand and gravel sites, shown on the Imperial County General Plan, should be reserved specifically for sand and gravel extraction.

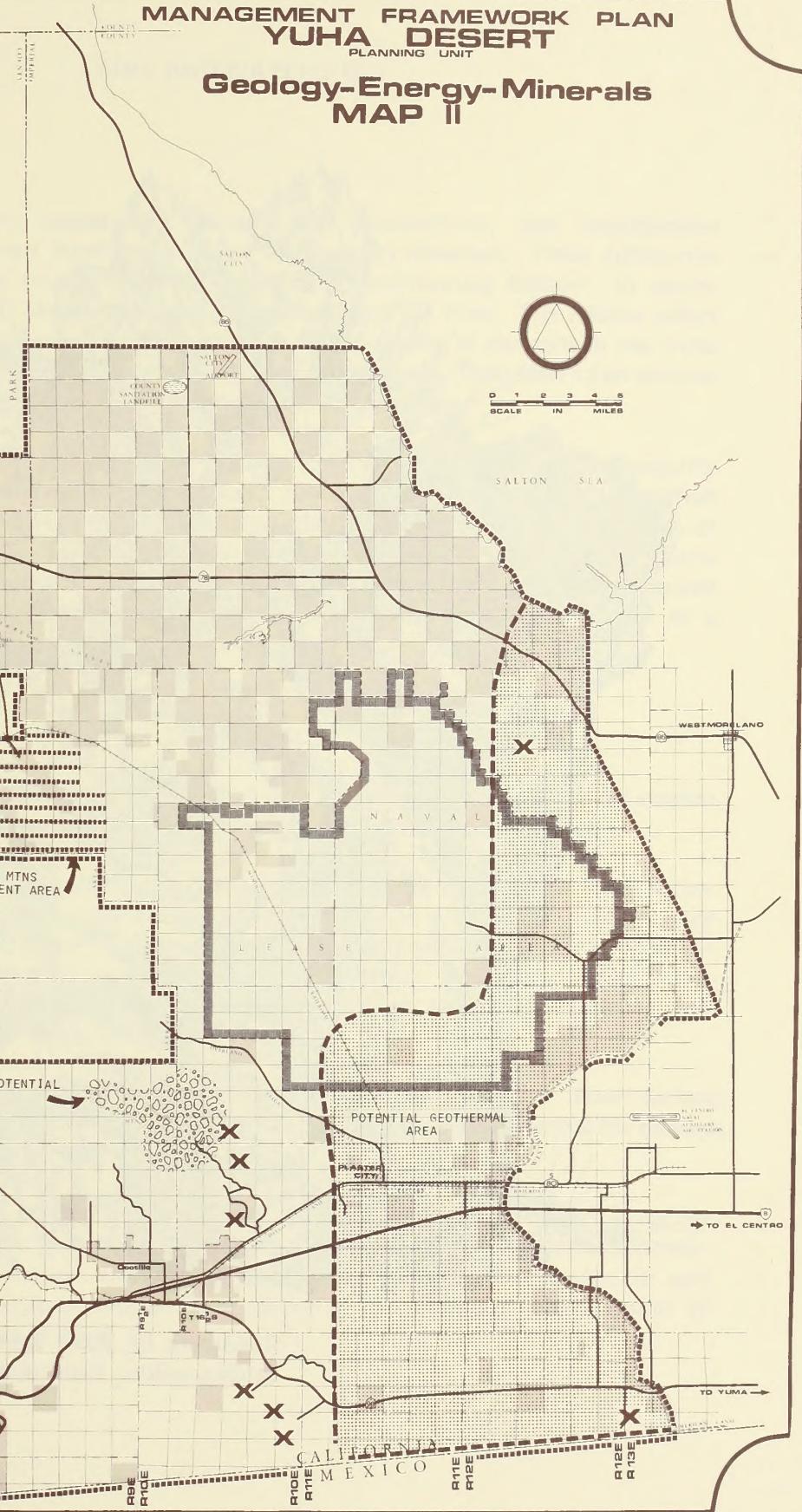
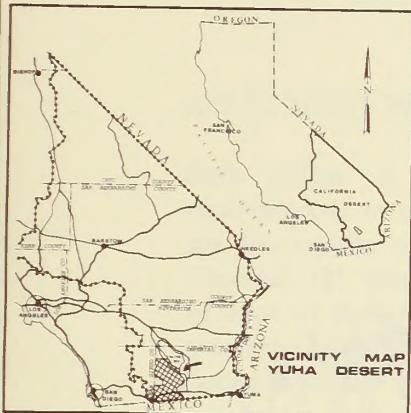
The conservation element for Imperial County has recognized the seven sand and gravel sites designated on the map. The sand and gravel resource is of economic importance to Imperial and San Diego Counties as a source of supply for future construction and expansion.

16. Recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that after his acceptance of any area proposed for withdrawal from mining activity, but prior to final decision on withdrawal, further investigation of mineral potential be undertaken in the respective area.

This procedure will provide immediate protection of the known resources and primitive values, but will withhold final decision on permanent withdrawal until the "not fully known" mineral resources potential is further studied. In the interim, existing valid mineral rights should not be affected.

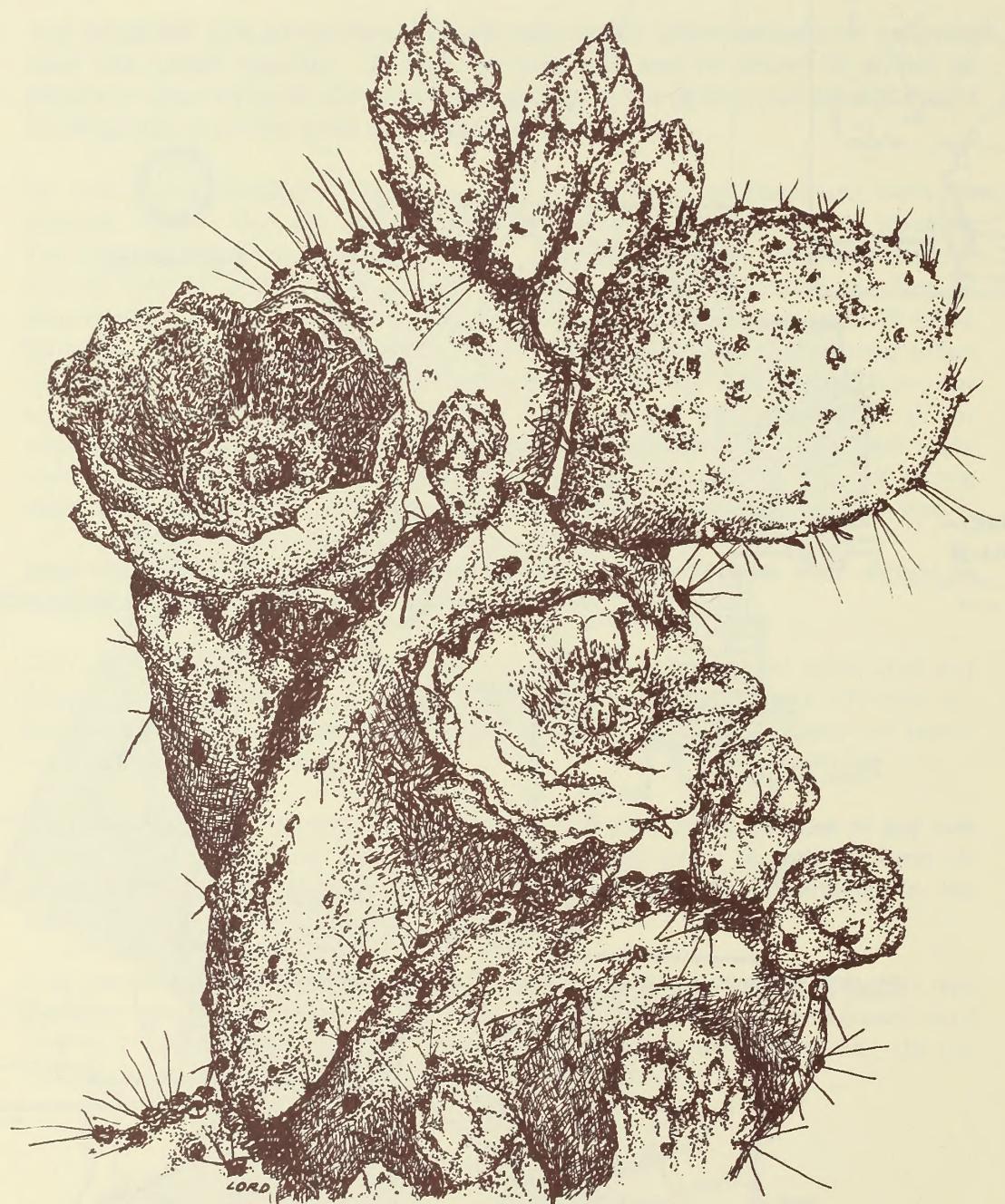
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN **YUHA DESERT** PLANNING UNIT

Geology-Energy-Minerals MAP II



-LEGEND-
MINERALS

X POTENTIAL SAND AND GRAVEL EXPANSION AREAS



Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

SOIL AND WATERSHED

INTRODUCTION

Soils differ in their appearance, composition, productivity, and management requirements in different localities, or even within short distances. These differences are the results of the interaction of these different soil-forming factors: (1) parent material, (2) relief, (3) climate, (4) living organisms, and (5) time. The relative effect of each of these factors varies within each soil. The majority of the soils in the Yuha area show little soil development because of lack of moisture. They tend to be alkaline because most of the moisture evaporates and leaves dissolved salts.

The erosion condition at the present time varies from slight to severe with the majority of the area in the moderate to severe stage. Although the present erosion condition shows large areas in the critical to severe stage, the trend is fairly static. The stage of erosion condition is the result of climatic forces acting upon a long period of time. Flooding can occur whenever there are cloudbursts in the western portion of Imperial County. The path of flooding is usually well established so damage is kept to a minimum.

DECISIONS

17. Prevent or retard accelerating erosion of soils. Uses which cause increased erosion should be diverted to areas of soil types which can best resist erosion.

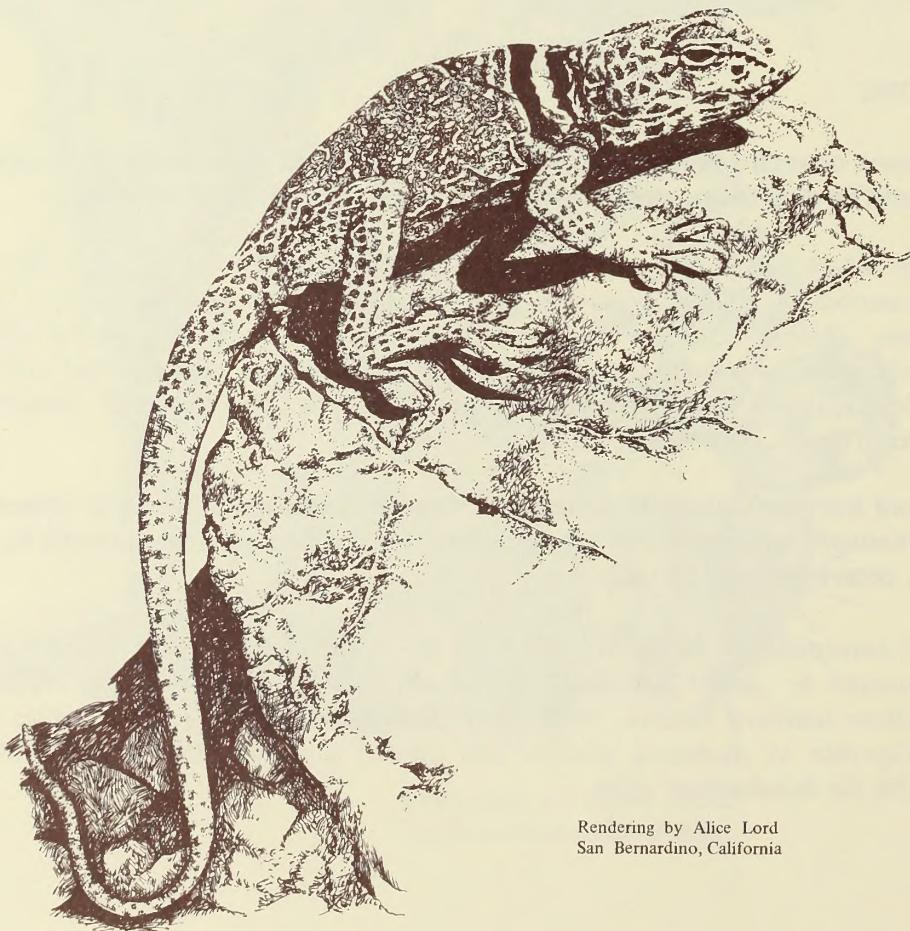
Uses which cause increase erosion should be limited on areas of severe erosion susceptibility. These areas are highly susceptible to erosion because of steep slopes, shallow soils or having surfaces highly susceptible to wind erosion or compaction because of an increase in fine particles. Also, areas with stable vesicular crusts which becomes very susceptible to erosion if disturbed, are areas of severe erosion susceptibility.

18. Avoid increased visual deterioration of desert landscape (scarring of desert surface) particularly where natural soil coloration and texture has high potential for damage, i.e., desert pavement areas.

The susceptibility to surface disturbance of this area is severe. These areas are protected by desert pavement with a dark desert varnish and stable vesicular, medium textured surface crust. Any disturbance of the surface makes the area susceptible to increased erosion and causes a visual impact which would be visible for hundreds of years.

19. Decisions for all projects and activities upstream of the San Sebastian Marsh area should be made in consideration of impact upon ground water levels.

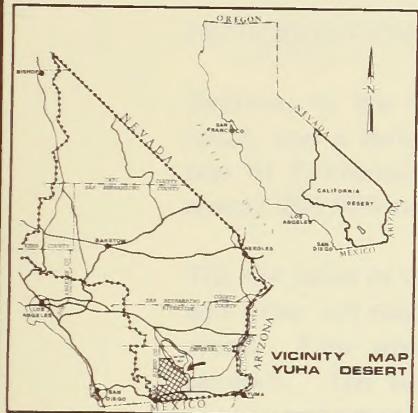
Any increased pumping for agricultural or domestic uses should consider the impact of lower ground water levels affecting the vegetation and wildlife in the marsh area.



Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT

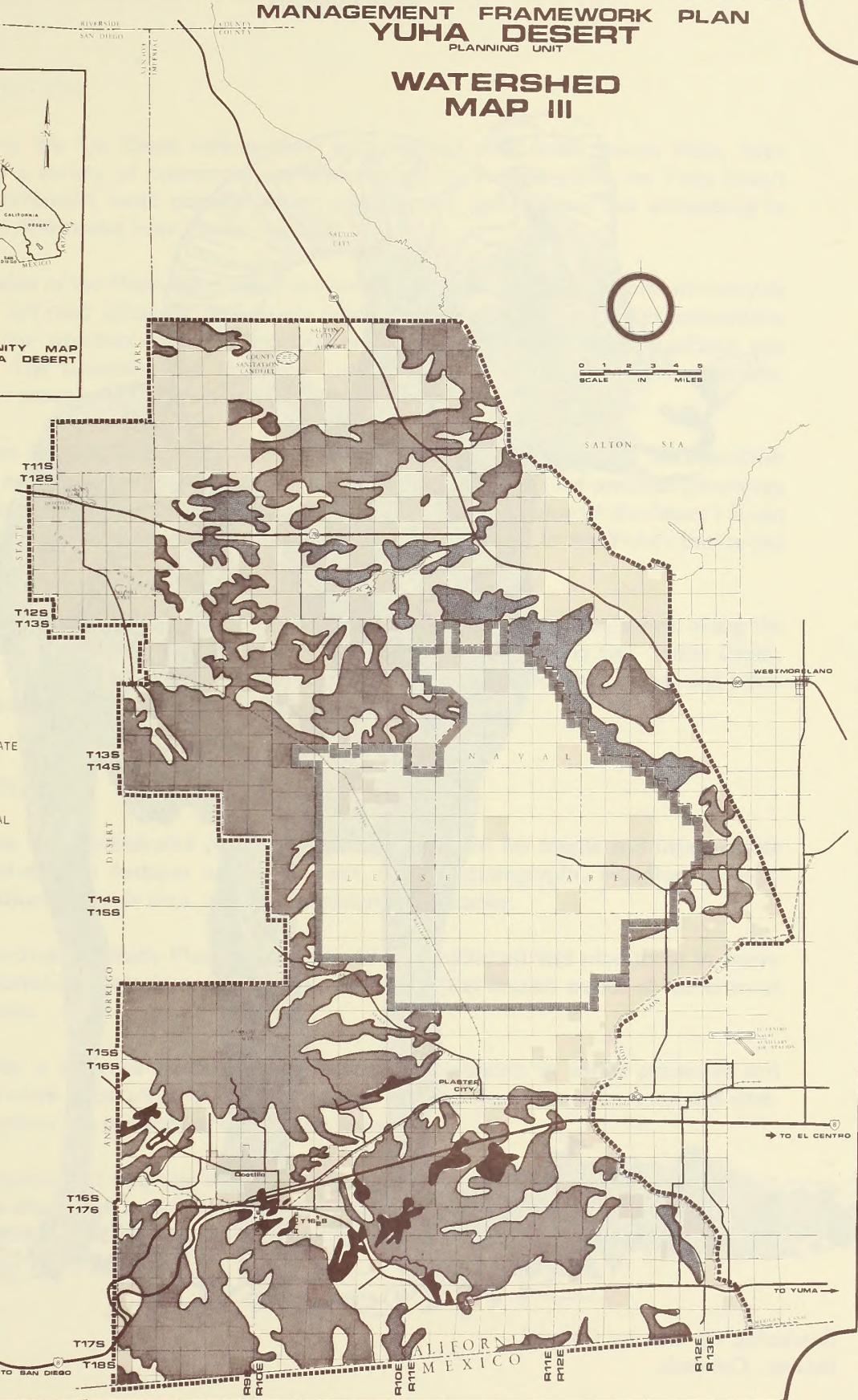
WATERSHED
MAP III



-LEGEND-
WATERSHED

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO IMPACT
(SURFACE DISTURBANCES)

- SLIGHT TO MODERATE
- SEVERE
- SEVERE AND VISUAL





Rendering by Dianne Colcord
Denver, Colorado

RECREATION

INTRODUCTION

Nearness to the San Diego metropolitan area coupled with warm, sunny skies, open space, and a variety of interesting and unusual natural features make the Yuha Desert one of California's most popular desert playgrounds, with annual use amounting to almost 285,000 twelve hour visitor use days.

The flat lands in the Plaster City area have become increasingly popular with motorcycle and other off-road vehicular enthusiasts who come to play and engage in competitive events. Four wheelers favor the exploration of the unit's more rugged badlands and canyons. The beautiful and expansive Davies Valley area has long been a favorite touring and camp spot for modern day desert explorers.

Invertebrate fossil collectors and rockhounds come to the Yuha to collect fossil shellfish of bygone eras as well as petrified wood, jasper, agate and other semi-precious gemstones which have been washed out of mountain rock formations. Some of the desert's finest concretions, both tabular shaped and pumpkin-like, are found in the Yuha's basins and badlands.

Good hunting opportunities exist in the Yuha along the Salton Sea, shore, along the New River bottomlands, in Meyers and Davies Valley and along San Felipe Creek. Waterfowl, doves, quail, and cottontails are among the species sought in these and other hunting areas in the unit.

DECISIONS:

20. Initiate a comprehensive physical protection program for fragile and irreplaceable natural-cultural features within the unit, such as petroglyphs, intaglios, geologic formations, historic sites, and rare or endangered species.
21. Environmental Study Plots (ESP's) should be established and monitored in heavy use recreation areas in order to assess environmental impact trends of recreational activities.
22. Develop a selective roadside and highway sign program in which attractive and informative signs identify BLM lands and specific recreational features and sites, and expand the program as capabilities permit.
23. A mapping and strategic system of signing desert roads and trails at major access points should be undertaken for the management of vehicle use. This program will protect resources while guiding users to the best recreation opportunities on national resource lands.

24. A comprehensive interpretive prospectus should be prepared to lay the basis for a coordinated interpretive program within the Yuha Planning Unit. This prospectus should identify and integrate such interpretive needs as personnel, nature trails, wayside exhibits, signs, publications, and way stations (interpretive centers) and other media. This comprehensive plan would coordinate individual site interpretive plans for specific areas of natural and cultural significance.
25. Camping should be restricted in areas of natural and cultural fragility where the concentration of unregulated camping may impact these values. In such cases, camping should either be prohibited or concentrated in designated sites of delineated extent and predetermined carrying capacity. With the anticipated use of the primitive areas recommended in this plan, consideration should be given to the ultimate development of designated campgrounds on the peripheries of primitive areas to serve primitive area users. Within the primitive areas, sites should be located for backpacker campsites when intensity of overnight use within primitive areas approaches recreational carrying capacity. Ultimately, backpacker permits may be necessary to preserve natural values and maximize user satisfaction.
26. A Way Station or Way Stations (interpretive centers) should be developed within the Yuha Planning Unit to serve as an interpretive link between the Bureau of Land Management and the public. The way station(s) should be located using the following criteria: (a) the site should be visible from a major highway which serves as a major transportation artery for desert users coming from the metropolitan areas; (b) the site should generally be located where the majority of desert users would have an opportunity to be contacted prior to reaching the heavily used areas of national resource lands; and (c) should be sited and developed in physical and aesthetic harmony with the natural desert scene.
27. Develop a detailed use and management plan for the San Sebastian area including historic Harper's Well and the site of the village of San Sebastian. This would include vehicular access, walking paths, signs and interpretive facilities.

If acquired by the BLM and properly protected, the Village of San Sebastian affords the opportunity to develop interpretive facilities including self-guiding trails and outdoor displays which could explain the late prehistoric aboriginal use of the area, and the shifting use from horticulturalists to hunters and gatherers.

28. Work with Imperial County to affect shooting controls within the San Sebastian Outstanding Natural Area under County ordinances for public safety. Desirable controls include: (a) elimination of rifle, pistol and bow shooting from the recommendation area, (b) restriction of shotgun shooting within 600 feet of the access route through the recommendation area, (c) restriction of shotgun shooting within 600 feet of interpretive sites and designated access trails thereto, and (d) a cooperative signing effort to identify restricted and closed shooting areas.
29. Designate the San Felipe Hills Area "Special Design" for vehicle use and initiate a program to acquire the interspersed private lands. The designation Special Design recognizes unusual geologic, scenic and interpretive values in the bubbling mud

pots, artesian well, sandstone concretions and interesting formations which occur in this area. Accordingly, vehicular use in these areas should be limited to designated roads and trails, and every effort should be made to secure these features against destruction and collection.

- a. For purposes of public safety, hunting should be prohibited within the special design area.
- b. Develop a site interpretive plan for the concretion area to include self-guiding devices, wayside exhibits and interpretive trails.

The San Felipe Hills area is popular among off-road vehicle enthusiasts, particularly those with four-wheel drives and dune buggies.

30. Designate the east Fish Creek Mountains as a Primitive Area (43 CFR Sec. 6221) in order to protect and best manage this roadless area of diverse geological and archaeological features.

- a. Develop site interpretive plan for significant natural and cultural features. Primitive values will be maintained through use of unobtrusive interpretive methods, such as small, guided hike groups and self-guiding leaflets.
- b. Develop a protective and interpretive plan for the archaeological features located along the eastern portion of the Fish Creek Mountains. This plan should include vehicular access closure, fencing, interpretive signs, self-guiding trails, or ranger conducted interpretive hikes.

The eastern section of the Fish Creek Mountains is very rugged, scenic, geologically diverse, and have been minimally impacted by roads and mining. This is, in fact, the most roadless area in the Yuha Desert. Known archaeological values include rock rings and aboriginal trails. Rugged cliffs afford excellent habitat for prairie falcons. Excellent opportunities exist for hiking and solitude.

31. Protect human safety. "Close" Carrizo Impact Hazard Area to all public use and post warning of contamination.

The U.S. Navy utilized this area from 1953 to 1964 for aerial bombing training. However, the area has not been decontaminated and therefore, presents a potential danger to the desert visitor.

32. Establish a Coyote Mountains Primitive Area as shown on map to protect and best manage this rugged area of badlands, unusual geologic formations, outstanding paleontological significance, and noteworthy potential as a biological sanctuary (43 CFR 6221).

- a. Manage Coyote Mountains Primitive Area in accordance with a recreation activity plan and interpretive plan. Initially there will be no trails or primitive camp sites within the primitive area. However, the need for these could be reassessed with increasing visitor use.

- b. Collecting should be excluded in the Primitive Area and adjacent outstanding natural areas to preserve paleontological values.
- c. Remove refuse from area and obliterate mining and road scars as practicable.

This area is richly endowed with a variety of rugged desert scenery including badlands, steep-walled canyons, precipitous cliffs, and unusual, differentially eroded formations. Its geological features are exceedingly diversified, and fossils are abundant. Most of this portion of the Coyote Mountains is virtually roadless and has received little impact from mining or other activities. It has inherent primitive values and is contiguous with Anza-Borrego State Park along its west and north boundaries. Superlative primitive hiking and back packing opportunities exist for those who would cross the Coyote Mountain Range from BLM lands into Anza-Borrego State Park. Lands are entirely owned by BLM.

33. Special attention should be given to interpretation of prime features in and adjacent to the Primitive Area, such as Fossil Shell Beds, Fossil Canyon, and Painted Gorge. Interpretive methods employed within the Primitive Area should be unobtrusive upon primitive values and might thus be limited to small guided hikes, and self-guiding leaflets.

Interpretation will call attention to and disclose the significance of these natural, archaeologic, and historic features, thus maximizing public enjoyment as well as proper use of national resource lands. BLM policy supportive of interpretation (1603.12C3b) "provide for public use, and development of significant natural, historic and cultural values found on the natural resource lands."

34. In view of the unusual scenic facilities and natural values of Painted Gorge the BLM should develop a management plan and protective measures for Painted Gorge to include- (a) emphasis on protection of seeps, end of road area, special floral values, (b) clean up of refuse, (c) limitation of camp sites to mouth of Gorge and away from areas with special floral and faunal values, and (d) installation of interpretive signs illustrative of biologic and geologic features.

35. Establish the Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area in recognition of its diversity of significant natural features and the need to manage the area as a compatible unit.

- a. Develop a recreation activity plan for the Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area to show roads, hiking trails, camp sites, interpretive sites, and other features.
- b. Remove, where practicable, debris and refuse.
- c. Limit hunting within the Outstanding Natural Area to the Smuggler's Cave area in order to maintain solitude, and protect users and the Peninsular Bighorn.

36. Establish an In-Ko-Pah Primitive Area within the Outstanding Natural Area and prepare and submit a request for withdrawal from mining and other forms of entry to protect and preserve natural values and public land status. Submit request to the Secretary of the Interior with recommendation that after acceptance further investigation of mineral potential be conducted prior to final action on the withdrawal. This procedure will provide for immediate protection of the known nonrenewable resources and primitive values but will withhold final judgment on permanent withdrawal until the "not fully known" mineral potential is further studied. In the interim, existing valid mineral rights are not affected.

Most of this area has already been designated a "Class V Primitive Area" under the BOR Classification System (CFR Sec. 2071.1). Thus inherent values are already recognized. But the present "primitive" designation is insufficient to guarantee protection of primitive values (see Sec. 2071.4a). Smuggler's Cave, a scenic and important historic location, would be added, and wildlife values extending to Highway 8 would be protected.

A Primitive Area classification is needed to protect and maintain the special wildlife and floral values found here. There is a high wildlife species diversity here. There are such habitats as Palm Grove, Beloperone Washes, Mountainous Ocotillo and Half-Shrub. These support 35 significant species: 20 reptiles and amphibians, 15 birds and 10 mammals.

This is prime habitat for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, a rare species. It is also prime habitat for species with limited geographic distribution such as leaf-toed gecko, small scaled lizard, and red-diamond rattlesnake.

37. Establish Scenic Corridors along Imperial Highway and Interstate 8 to maintain visual aesthetics along these routes.

The Imperial Highway Scenic Corridor will assure protection of an especially attractive desert scene which includes, ocotillo and cholla covered fans and lowland desert expanses backed by the rugged Jacumba Mountains. The area to the northeast of the corridor is the proposed Coyote Mountains Primitive Area, an outstanding geological and scenic resource. The Interstate 8 scenic corridor will assure visual protection of vast expanses of desert badlands, an ancient sea bottom, distant shell beds, and In-Ko-Pah Gorge with its exposed granitic batholith and cactus gardens.

38. Establish a Scenic Corridor, one-half mile wide, on both sides of Highway 78 in order to maintain visual aesthetics along this popular route to Anza-Borrego State Park (43 CFR Sec. 6222.0-6).

The Code of Federal Regulations (Sec. 6222.0-6) states that "...scenic corridors may be established along roads and highways...for the preservation, protection and enhancement of scenic and natural values..."

39. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

a. Crucifixion Thorn:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.
- (2) Restrict access to a stile into the fenced area.
- (3) Develop interpretive plan.

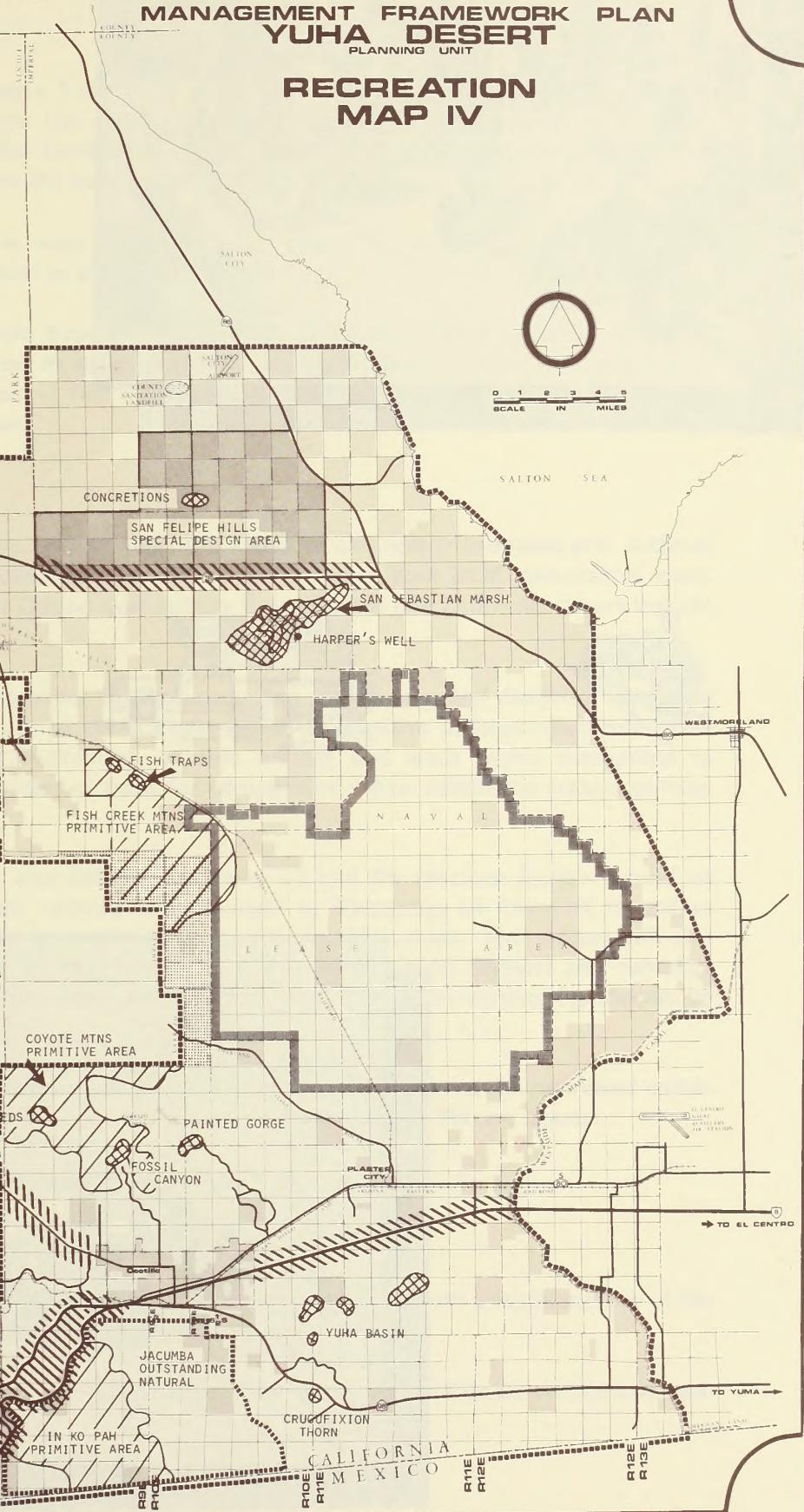
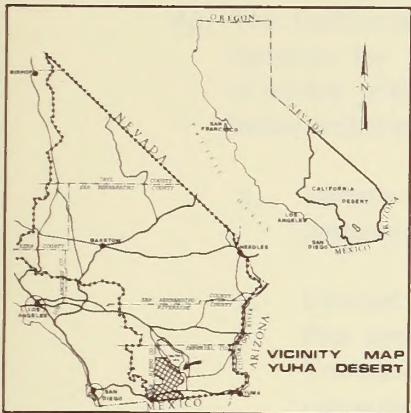
b. Yuha Basin: (Yuha Well, Intaglios, Vista de Anza and Oyster Beds)

- (1) Research Military records to determine area used for practice range and to determine probable degree of hazard to recreation activity.
- (2) Develop interpretive plan to identify access, signs, protective devices, etc.



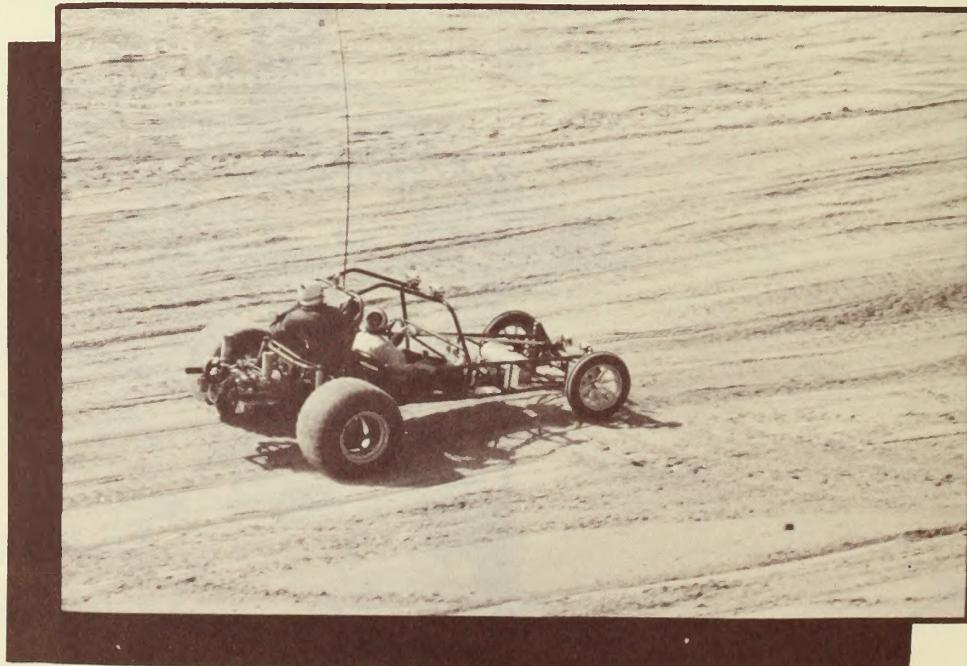
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT

RECREATION
MAP IV



-LEGEND-
RECREATION

- SCENIC CORRIDOR
- INTERPRETIVE SITE
- HAZARD AREA



VEHICLE PLAN

DECISIONS

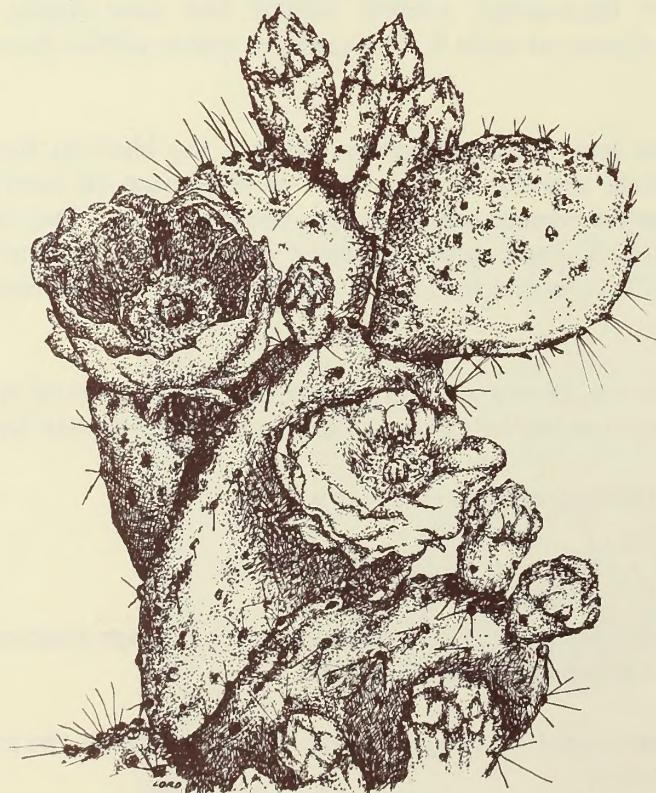
40. The California Desert Vehicle Management Program: "BLM Critical Management Program for Vehicle Use on the California Desert," dated November 1, 1974, is amended within the boundaries of the Yuha Desert Planning Unit as described below and shown on the summary map:
 - a. Vehicle use in areas not designated "open" or "closed" shall be limited to designated roads as shown on the map.
 - b. Limited vehicle travel will be allowed in Meyer's Valley by permit provided that permission to access is granted by the State of California Department of Transportation. The Bureau will monitor impacts on wildlife and other resource values.
41. Modify Plaster City "open" vehicle use area to conform to proposed area outlined on this plan. Competitive events to be changed from BLM competitive event system to Sponsor Option Competitive Event Course (see California Desert Vehicle Program).
42. Establish vehicle corridor in the Lower San Felipe area and designate roads and trails for vehicle use to avoid direct access to sensitive archaeological sites, rare stands of Desert Buckwheat, wildlife habitat and areas highly susceptible to erosion. Plan a system of trails for competitive events within the eastern portion of the basin.
43. A portion of the area between Highway 98 and the Mexican Border should be "closed" to vehicle activity and managed to discourage all forms of recreation and other uses which would interfere with wildlife values. This closure will also aid in the control of illegal entry by aliens (Immigration Service) and narcotics (U.S. Customs). It is recommended that the following management guidelines be utilized:
 - a. Vehicle use, as well as other recreation activities, not be permitted within approximate one-half mile of the United States-Mexico Border.
 - b. The BLM designate all race courses.
 - c. All pit areas be located near Highway 98.
 - d. The Area Manager review all proposed races with a representative of the Border Patrol and Custom Service.
 - e. One designated crossing point be established across the smoke tree wash for vehicles.

- f. Vehicles not be permitted in areas of sensitive and rare vegetative stands.
- g. No camping should be permitted on Pinto Wash.

44. A corridor one mile wide (as shown on map) permits vehicle use on the historic Overland Stage Route ONLY and limits vehicle crossings of this historic trail to not more than three designated points.

45. Establish courses for the Yuha Basin competitive event area. Avoid access to sensitive archaeological sites, rare stands of desert buckwheat, wildlife habitat and areas highly susceptible to erosion.

46. Establish vehicular corridors for competitive events connecting major ORV areas as shown on the map.

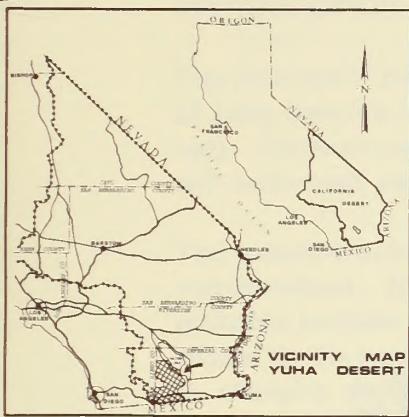


Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT

VEHICLE PLAN

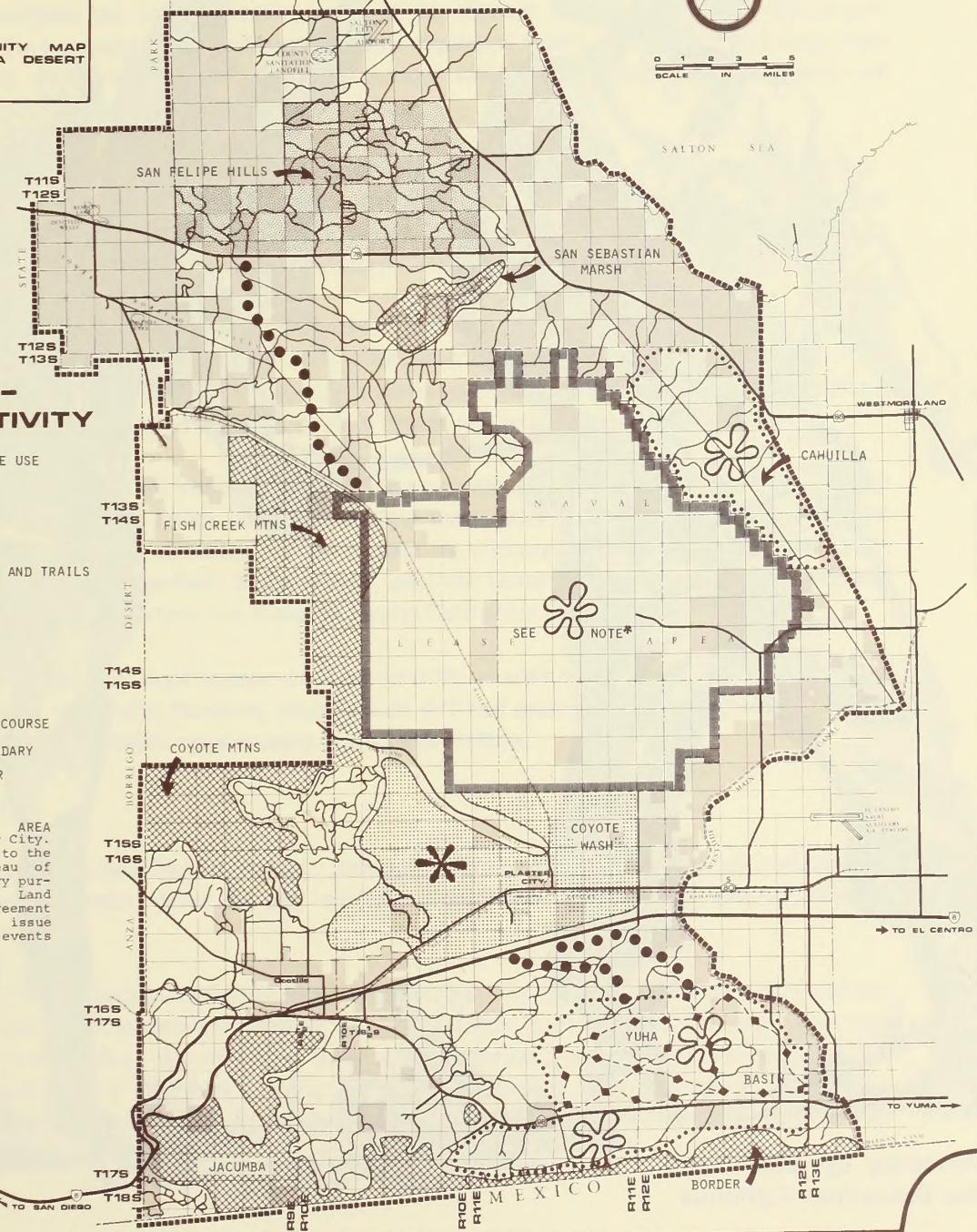
MAP V



RIVERSIDE
SAN DIEGO
COUNTY
COUNTY
MEXICO



0 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN MILES



-LEGEND-
VEHICLE ACTIVITY

- [Cross-hatched box] CLOSED TO VEHICLE USE
- [White box] OPEN AREA
- RESTRICTED:**
 - [Hatched box] SPECIAL DESIGN
 - [Thin line with dots] DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS
- COMPETITIVE EVENTS:**
 - [Flower symbol] B.L.M. SYSTEM
 - [Star symbol] SPONSOR OPTION
 - [Dashed line with dots] DESIGNATED RACE COURSE
 - [Dotted line] COMPETITION BOUNDARY
 - [Solid dots] VEHICLE CORRIDOR

NOTE*

SPECIAL COMPETITION AREA located north of Plaster City. These lands are leased to the U.S. Navy by the Bureau of Reclamation for military purposes. The Bureau of Land Management has an agreement with the Navy to issue permits for organized events ONLY



Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

CULTURAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The fortunes of prehistoric man appear to have been closely limited by the ebb and flow of Lake Cahuilla (ancient body of water that covered Imperial Valley about 500 years ago). Evidence suggests hunting and collecting peoples maintained a flexible subsistence and settlement pattern dictated by the level of the lake and location of the shoreline.

The scientific potential of the archaeology resources of the Yuha area derive from three considerations: first, little about the prehistory of the area is known; second, this area probably includes the only extant remains of the Kamia Indians; and third, the area is critical to the examination of current theories regarding man's socio-economic responses to changing environments, and major processes affecting the population dynamic of California prehistoric man.

The Yuha Desert historically formed an inhospitable barrier--dry, bleak and forbidding--between the Colorado River and the Pacific Coast. It served however as the principal gateway for thousands of settlers, missionaries, travelers, and explorers who were forced to traverse its sandy wastes to reach southern California.

The earliest route--the Anza Trail--crossed the Yuha Desert generally in a north-south direction between Yuha Wells and San Sebastian Marsh before passing between the Fish Creek and Santa Rosa Mountains through Borrego Valley. This trail was later modified as better passage was found through a more direct route up Carrizo Wash.

The Anza Trail played an important role in the conquest of California and ushered many immigrants to the gold fields discovered a few years later in the central valley. It soon became a major wagon and stage route known by various names: Southern Immigrant Trail, Overland or Butterfield Stage Route, and the Sonoran Road (see map). It served as the major southern artery for travel between California and the east.

The national historic significance of this corridor is well established, and the segment which crossed the Yuha Planning Unit is well defined and in relatively good condition, providing an unparalleled opportunity for interpretation.

DECISIONS

47. Complete archaeological survey, salvage and/or other mitigation as required by Federal Statutes, prior to any surface disturbance in order to protect cultural features.

The Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (88 Stat. 174) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (31 Stat. 852) mandate this recommendation. Additional support is afforded by Executive Order 11593, Antiquities Act of 1906 (34 Stat. 225), and Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915). The

Advisory Council of Historic Preservation has outlined the procedures for compliance (36 CFR 800).

48. Maintain and continually update a complete inventory of cultural resource site data so as to have a ready base for management decisions.

Section 2(a) of Executive Order 11593 requires that all Federal agencies inventory all sites, buildings, districts, and objects under their jurisdiction or control that contain cultural resource values. As well, the BLM has the responsibility to maintain a thorough, continuing inventory of archaeological and historical sites on lands it administers (6231.1).

49. Initiate systematic preparation of necessary data to nominate cultural resource properties of appropriate significance to the National Register of Historic Places.

In furtherance of the process and policies of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915), the Historic Site Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666), and the Antiquities Act of 1906 (34 Stat. 225), Section 2(a) of Executive Order 11593 requires all Federal agencies to locate, inventory, and nominate all cultural properties under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Washington Office has identified E.O. 11593 compliance as one of the major priorities within the last few years as seen in their Annual Work Plan directives.

50. Maintain and continually update a cultural resources sensitivity map. Utilize this map to identify areas where uncontrolled public access and/or surface disturbance should be discouraged.

The BLM is directed to protect, by the most effective means available under its authority, all sites under its jurisdiction identified as having cultural resource values (9251.1).

51. Conduct an intensive archaeological survey of all courses to be used for competitive ORV events.

Section 2(b) of E.O. 11593 states that in the interim period until inventories and evaluations required by subsection (a) are completed, the Federal agency having jurisdiction or control of the cultural resources will exercise caution to assure that Federal actions do not inadvertently alter, transfer, and demolish cultural resources. A short-term program of intensive, systematic archaeological survey of areas requiring immediate management needs would allow compliance with E.O. 11593 and would complement the Desert Study Archaeological Inventory.

52. Develop a comprehensive plan for the protection and interpretation of cultural resources. Protection should be achieved by the use of signs, fences, barriers, supervisory personnel and other appropriate measures. Interpretation should stress such themes as man's adaptation to a rigorous and fluctuating environment, the process of the spread of horticulture from the southwest to the California

Desert peoples, and the possible existence of early man. Interpretation should be achieved by an integrated program of signs, displays, self-guiding trails, news releases, brochures, leaflets, professional publications, and the trained supervisory personnel. The following priority properties should be included, as well as those which may be identified by future inventory and study: (a) Overland Stage Route, (b) Davies Valley, (c) Yuha Basin, (d) San Sebastian Village, (e) Eastern Fish Creek Mountains, and (f) Ancient Lake Cahuilla Shoreline.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provide authority for protection of historic and archaeological sites. Additionally, BLM Manual 6231.2 states: "The Bureau shall protect, by the most effective means available under its authority, all sites under its jurisdiction identified as having archaeological, historical, or paleontological values, and the cultural, scientific, and aesthetic features of these sites." The Yuha Planning Unit has historical and archaeological resources of great significance. Some are already included on the National Register of Historic Places, while others will be included in the future. The value of these resources can only be fully realized by their protection and interpretation for public education.

53. Develop and implement a plan of patrolling and monitoring for protection of cultural resource values.

Section 6231.2 of the BLM Manual states that "The Bureau shall protect by the most effective means under its authority sites which have archaeological, historical, or paleontological values..." The Desert Ranger force and other trained personnel provide a method of on-the-ground supervision of cultural resources. Development of a patrol program which emphasizes the continual monitoring of cultural resources, along with the use of fences, signs and other protective measures, can help meet this responsibility.

54. Encourage and support intensive and systematic archaeological research including survey, excavation and analysis by reputable institutions. Excavation will be done only when the need is clearly stated and in compliance with federal procedures.

Archaeological work in the area suffers from inadequate funding and lack of long-term planning of scientific objectives and methods. Most of the work that has been conducted has been ill-coordinated and little of what has been done has resulted in usable information either for scientific or interpretive purposes. Until this is amended, the full scientific and public value of the area's cultural resources will not be realized. BLM can assist in alleviating this problem by following this recommendation.

55. Modify the existing boundaries of the National Register of Historic Places trail corridor to accurately include the routes of the Fages trek, the Anza march, the Southern Immigrant Trail, the Sonoran Trail and the Overland Stage Route Trail.

The existing National Register of Historic Places property within the Yuha Planning Unit will affect management decisions. The present property boundaries

do not accurately include the cultural resources which it is intended to protect. The property boundaries must be re-established to more accurately cover the routes of the Anza Trek, the Southern Immigrant Trail, and the Overland Stage Route. Management procedures will have to be worked out in conjunction with California State Historic Preservation Officer.

- 56. Avoid publicity related to specific cultural resources properties until adequate interpretative and/or protective strategies can be implemented.**

The avoidance of publicity as to the location of cultural resource properties provides a means of protection. Many sites may be best safeguarded from human interference by leaving them unmarked or undeveloped for the time being. (BLM Manual 9251.11.H.)

- 57. Conduct a complete archaeological and historic resources inventory of the Yuha Planning Unit under the procedures outlined in the Archaeological Element of the California Desert Study (Weide 1973) and by the data collected from other sources.**

The present knowledge of archaeological and historical sites locations in the Yuha Planning Unit is spotty and limited in its reliability for inventory and planning purposes. Site locations that have been plotted in the past may only approximate the true location, and are in need of re-evaluation. There presently exists no documentation of a systematic survey of a bounded area within any portion of the Yuha Planning Unit which we can consider inventoried.

- 58. Nominate the historic village of San Sebastian, Harper's Well, Intaglios and Yuha Well to the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of their historical significance.**

- 59. Develop a protection and stabilization program to preserve the San Sebastian village site and prevent further deterioration. The stabilization program should include protective measures to prevent deterioration from natural forces such as erosion and burrowing animals. In addition, protection against inadvertent entry by vehicles should be accomplished by installation of appropriate fences and signs.**

Section 2(b) of E.O. 11593 requires that all Federal agencies nominate all cultural properties under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic village of San Sebastian appears to qualify for nomination as an archaeological and/or historical site. A degree of protection can be afforded the National Register property by utilizing E.O. 10355 to withdraw the land for protection of the recreation and public values.

Rainfall and flash flooding in San Felipe Wash are damaging the site. A stabilization program with diversion dams, catchment basins, or similar devices may be necessary to alleviate this threat. If this is not possible, then a full scale

archaeological salvage program should be implemented. The wash contains one of the desert marshes and is a registered National Natural Landmark (San Felipe Creek). The Riverside District Office of the BLM has identified this area as having potential natural and scientific research values.

60. Nominate identified archaeologic features (e.g., Fish Traps) along the entire eastern portion of the Fish Creek Mountains to the National Register of Historic Places.

Section 2(b) of E.O. 11593 requires that all Federal agencies nominate all cultural resource properties under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The archaeological features along the eastern portion of the Fish Creek Mountains appear to qualify for nomination as archaeological sites, or, the whole eastern portion, in its entirety as an archaeological district. Additional protection can be afforded the National Register of Historic Places property by utilizing E.O. 10355 to withdraw the land for protection of recreation and public values.

The BLM shall protect, by the most effective means available under its authority, all sites under its jurisdiction identified as having archaeological values (9251.1). Protective and interpretive facilities such as fences, barriers, signs, self-guiding trails, and brochures can be utilized.

61. Nominate Davies Valley to the National Register of Historic Places and investigate possibilities for designation as an archaeological wilderness area (BLM T.N. 252).

Section 2(b) of E.O. 11593 requires that all Federal agencies nominate all cultural properties under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The archaeological resources in the Davies Valley appear to qualify for nomination as an archaeological district. Additional protection can be afforded the property by utilizing E.O. 10355 to withdraw the land for protection of the recreation and public values.

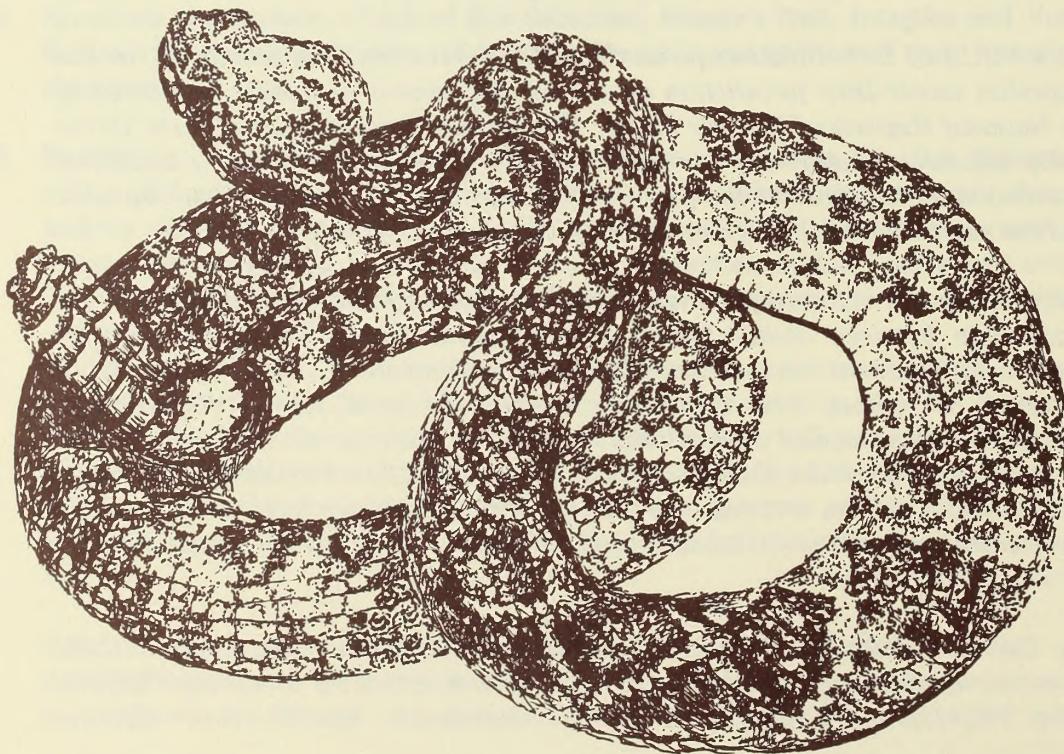
The irreplaceable nature of archaeological remains and the need to maintain the relationship between archaeological and ecological factors for future scientific study, combined with an increased interest in Indian culture and a swelling rate of visitation to remote, arid areas have created the need for a comprehensive management plan to deal with cultural resources in this context. The development and management of the broad Davies Valley area as "Archaeological Wilderness Area" would aid in meeting this need. The general concept and proposed management use of an "Archaeological Wilderness Area" is presented in BLM Technical Note 252.

The Bureau is charged with protecting, by the most effective means available under its authority, all properties under its jurisdiction identified as having historical value (9251.1). Following this recommendation would prove effective

protection to the resource. However, if the Bureau deems it necessary to undertake any activity that may have an effect on the National Register property, then Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given adequate time to review and comment on the proposed undertaking.

62. Develop, in cooperation with Anza Borrego State Park, a self-guiding interpretive plan for the use of the historic trail. Points of interest should include Sackett's Well and the old signs placed along the route by San Diego County Board of Supervisors around 1908.

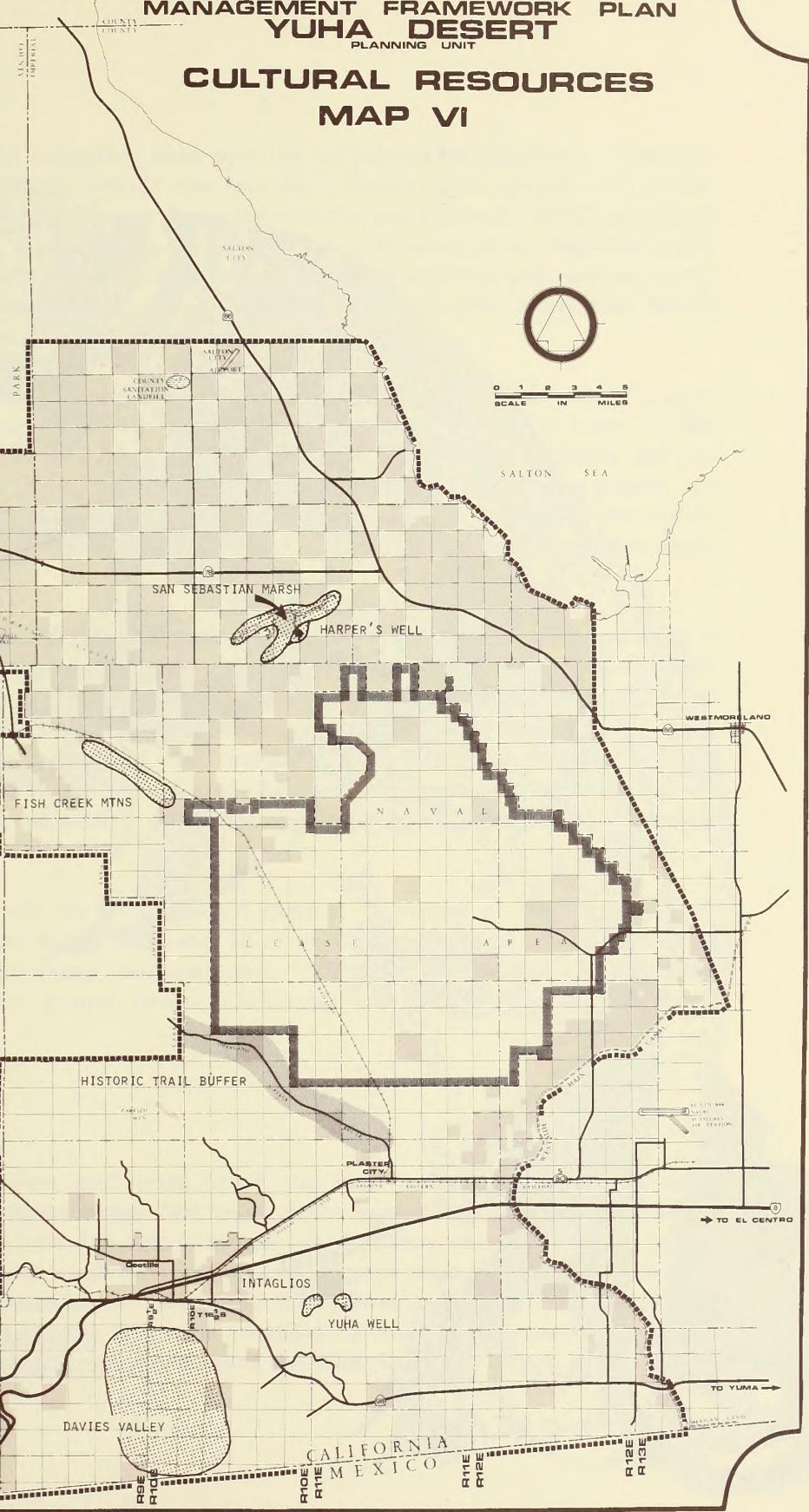
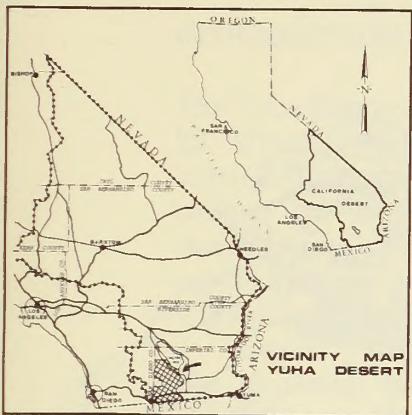
Much of the Yuha Planning Unit remains as it was 100 years ago. The desolation and harsh beauty of this desert landscape reported in diaries of many early travelers can be experienced today along this section of trail.



Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT

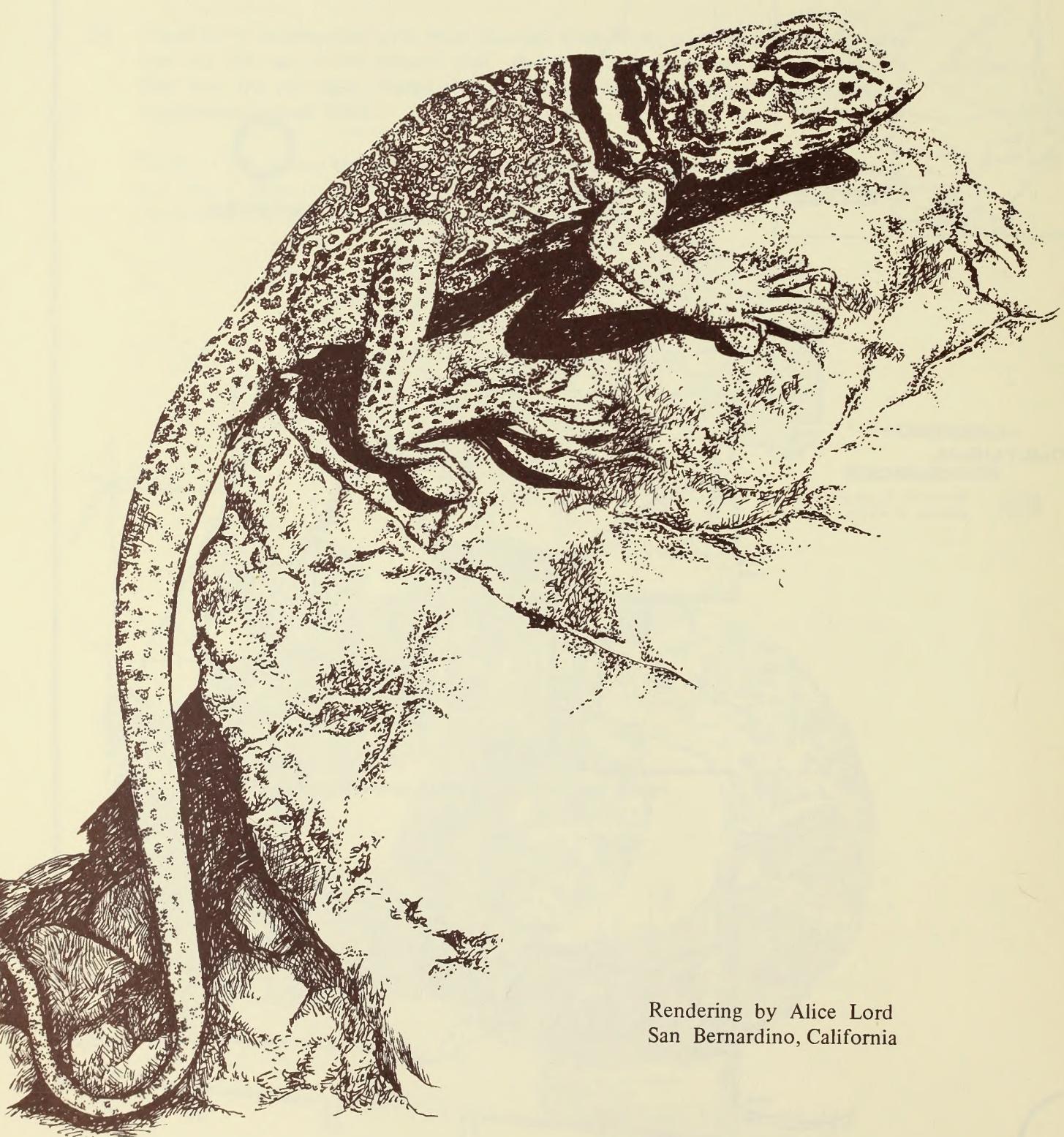
CULTURAL RESOURCES
MAP VI



-LEGEND-
**CULTURAL
RESOURCES**



NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Rendering by Alice Lord
San Bernardino, California

WILDLIFE

INTRODUCTION

The Yuha Planning Unit supports a wide diversity of wildlife habitat types. There are 29 different habitats which include creosote bush communities, ocotillo and cactus covered hillsides, washes and Smoke Trees, Beloperone, and Imperial Buckwheat, dunes covered with mesquite, barren badlands, palm groves with water, dense chaparral, and a desert marsh. Some of these habitats are unique to the planning unit and are found nowhere else in the United States. The Smuggler's Cave, In-Ko-Pah Mountains, Davies Valley, and Coyote Mountain regions are special in this regard.

The 29 habitat types support over 300 vertebrate wildlife species. There are 12 species of amphibians, 56 species of reptiles, 72 species of mammals, and 146 of birds. Of the 146 species of birds, 89 live in the area as residents and summer residents and use habitats for breeding. The 57 additional species are wintering or migrating species. At the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, there are 258 species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and small birds. Many of the species living at or using the Salton Sea Refuge also occur in the study area.

Some of the wildlife species are considered significant. A species is labeled significant if it falls into one or more of the following categories: Listed on the Federal Endangered and Threatened Species List; listed by the California Department of Fish and Game as rare or endangered; fully or partially protected by state law; listed on the Blue List of Diminishing Species for the current year; limited in numbers due to restricted habitat; limited in numbers due to position in food chain or web; possessing special values for science and education; possessing consumptive or nonconsumptive recreational uses; and used for commercial purposes.

In the Yuha Desert there are 95 significant species: 1 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians and reptiles, 42 of birds and 18 of mammals. Some of the more notable are: peninsular bighorn sheep, leaf-toed gecko, flat-tailed horned lizard, small-scaled lizard, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, California quail, Gambel's quail, California thrasher, and towhee.

DECISIONS

63. Survey all windblown sand areas (small and large dunes) for flat-tailed horned lizards, Colorado desert fringe-toed lizard, desert iguanas and other reptiles. Select prime habitat for the flat-tailed horned lizard, whose range is limited to the Colorado Desert, and establish a site of 4 to 6 square miles protected from habitat disturbance and degradation. Designate this area as a Research Natural Area in order to maintain habitat in natural condition as well as to preserve specialized floral and faunal habitat representative of the lower Colorado Desert.

64. Develop wetlands, marshland and mesquite habitat along 9 miles of Salton Sea Shoreline to create and improve wildlife habitat.

Marshlands and associated wetlands are dwindling in the western United States. The result has been reduction in critical waterfowl wintering habitat, habitat for several rare and endangered species (bald eagle, brown pelican, Yuma clapper rail, yellow-billed cuckoo), and habitat for rare and casual birds that do not occur elsewhere in California (i.e., saw-whet owl, scissor-tailed flycatcher).

The nearby Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge lands are managed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. This proposal would add to the National Wildlife Refuge habitat. There will be an increase in habitat suitable for game birds such as Gambel quail, mourning dove, and white-winged dove.

Habitat would be provided for 11 species of birds on the Blue List of diminishing species, i.e., bewick wren, Bell's vireo, sharp-shinned hawk, ferruginous hawk, Harris's hawk, marsh hawk, prairie falcon, merlin, American kestrel, barn owl, and burrowing owl.

The wetlands adjoining Salton Sea have been identified by the Office of Planning and Research of Imperial County as an area of critical concern and potential statewide significance.

65. Establish San Sebastian Outstanding Natural Area to recognize and protect the unusually rich associations of Colorado Desert floras and faunas and to preserve natural values and public land status:

- a. Designate San Sebastian Outstanding Natural Area (43 CFR 6225.0-5(b)).
- b. Extend boundaries of San Felipe Creek National Natural Landmark to include the total recommendation area (39 CFR 203:37225).
- c. Prepare and submit a request for withdrawal from mining and other forms of entry. Submit requests to the Secretary of the Interior with recommendation that after acceptance, further investigation of mineral potential be conducted prior to final action on the withdrawal. This procedure will protect resources and primitive values but will not withhold final judgment on permanent withdrawal until the "not fully known" mineral potential is further studied. In the interim, existing valid mineral rights are not affected.

The San Sebastian Area and San Felipe Basin habitats support over 100 species of resident fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. There are additional species of migrating and wintering birds which use habitats part of the year.

Forty-two of the wildlife species are significant. There is one species of fish, 2 of amphibians, 10 of reptiles, 22 of birds and 7 of mammals. Three species of birds are on the Federal Endangered Species List (peregrine falcon, southern Bald Eagle, Yuma clapper rail), and 8 are on the Blue List of diminishing bird species. There are several game species--mourning dove, Gambel quail, white-winged dove, and desert cottontail.

66. San Sebastian Marsh:

- a. Encourage scientific use and research of this unique and limited area by establishing a Research Natural Area.
- b. Develop a Habitat Management Plan for the Marsh in coordination with state agencies, universities and colleges and other federal agencies. The objective will be to maintain habitat in its present condition and to further analyze conditions. Elements of the Plan will provide for: open water to support fish, amphibians, and water birds; riparian habitat for birds; and solitude by eliminating vehicular traffic and shooting within 600 feet of the marsh.

San Sebastian Marsh provides: (1) potential habitat and feeding areas for such endangered and rare species as the southern bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Yuma clapper rail, and yellow billed cuckoo; (2) valuable habitat for the desert pupfish, Cyprinodon macularis; (3) valuable habitat for isolated populations of such species as the western aquatic snake and Pacific treefrog; and (4) marsh and wetlands habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Marshes and wetlands have been diminishing in the Northern Hemisphere.

67. Investigate the east end of Coyote Mountains for habitat of slender salamander, a species of very limited distribution known to occur in these mountains. Survey should include inspection of limestone and other rocky areas with seeps and moist soil.

The slender salamander is of value to the scientific community for study of evolution and speciation of isolated and relictual populations. Two species of slender salamanders have been discovered in the desert in the last 6 years. One, the desert slender salamander, is on the Endangered Species List; the other is in the process of being named and is likely to be placed on either the federal Endangered or Threatened Species List. The specimen collected in the Coyote Mountain area is likely to represent still a third new species.

68. Maintain and protect wildlife habitat within eastern portion of Coyote Wash adjacent to the agricultural area. This is the habitat of such endangered and diminishing raptors as the peregrine falcon and prairie falcon.

This type of habitat already supports a great variety of species and is second in diversity in the planning unit. There are 39 significant species--9 of reptiles, 23 of birds, 7 of mammals. Of these, 2 are on the federal Endangered Species List (peregrine falcon and southern bald eagle), and 1 is rare (yellow-billed cuckoo). There are 7 on the Blue List of diminishing bird species and 4 game species.

Expansion of habitat will enhance habitat for these endangered and rare species, for those on the Blue List, and for game birds (Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove).

69. Designate portions of T. 17 S., R. 12 E., S.B.M., Sec. 23 and 24 as the Mt. Signal Research Natural Area and develop appropriate protection, i.e., fencing and controlled access.

*The Desert Buckwheat Wash at Mt. Signal contains an exceptionally fine stand of the rare Desert or Imperial Buckwheat, *Eriogonum deserticola*, and other rare plants such as holly-leaved burbush, *Franseria ilicifolia*.*

*There are also such significant wildlife species as the Colorado fringe-toed sand lizard, the desert iguana, and potentially, the flat-tailed horned lizard. There is potential habitat for a rare pocket mouse, the little desert pocket mouse, *Perognathus arenarius*.*

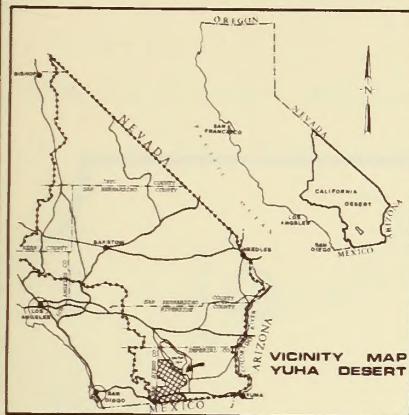
70. Protect and maintain Smoke Tree Washes in Carrizo Wash, Ocotillo Valley, Palm Canyon Wash, Yuha Basin, Yuha Wash and Pinto Wash by careful vehicle use planning.

Smoke Tree Washes represent a unique habitat. Although widespread in the Colorado Desert, they are very limited in acreage. Currently, vehicle use is causing severe impacts to this special wildlife habitat. Smoke Tree Washes support high concentrations of birds and other vertebrate species, often ten to fifty times as high as in surrounding areas of desert. Some birds are limited or concentrated in these washes: verdins, black-tailed gnatcatchers, and Costa's hummingbirds.

See RECREATION section for additional wildlife decisions--Fish Creek Mountains Primitive Area, Coyote Mountains Primitive Area, Painted Gorge, Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area and In-Ko-Pah Primitive Area and Outstanding Natural Area.

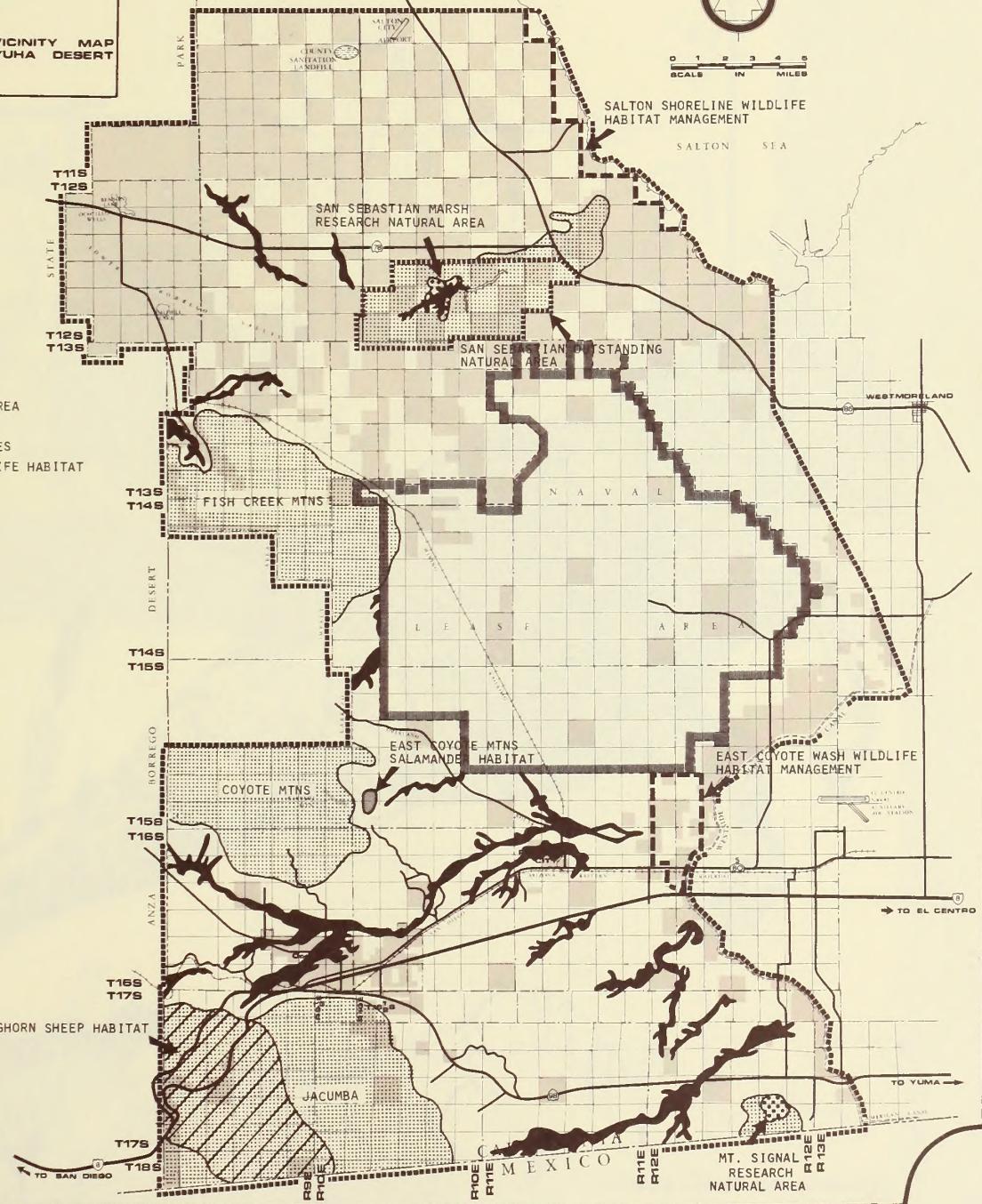
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
YUHA DESERT
PLANNING UNIT

WILDLIFE
MAP VII



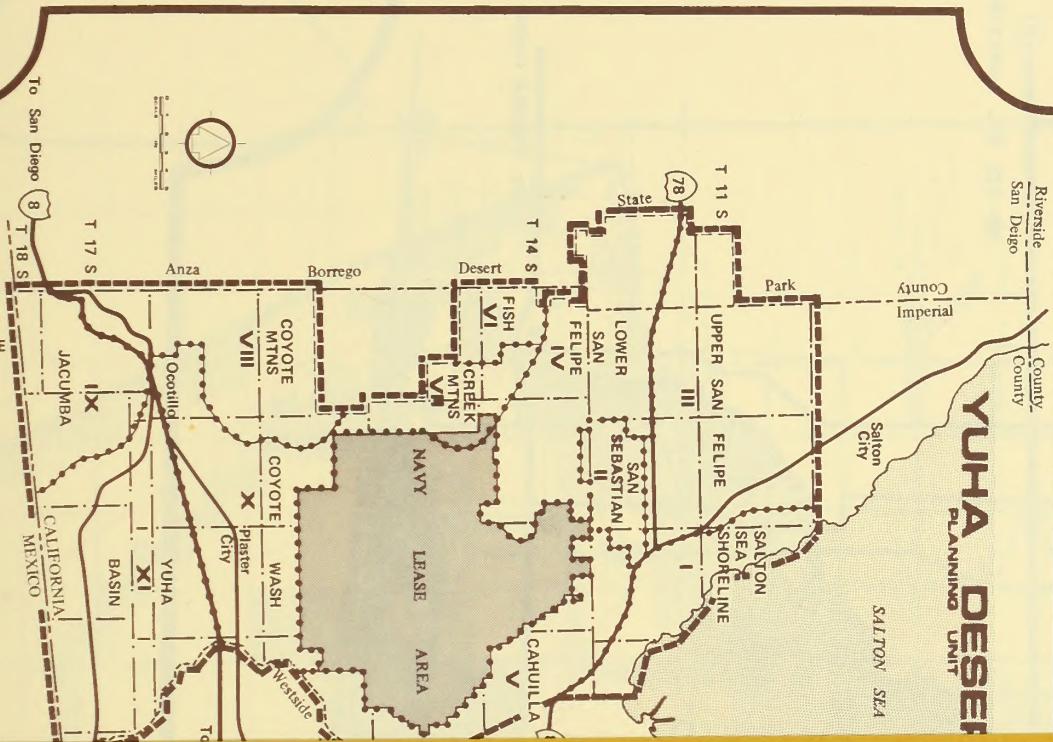
-LEGEND-
WILDLIFE

- PRIME HABITAT AREA
- SMOKE TREE WASHES
- SENSITIVE WILDLIFE HABITAT

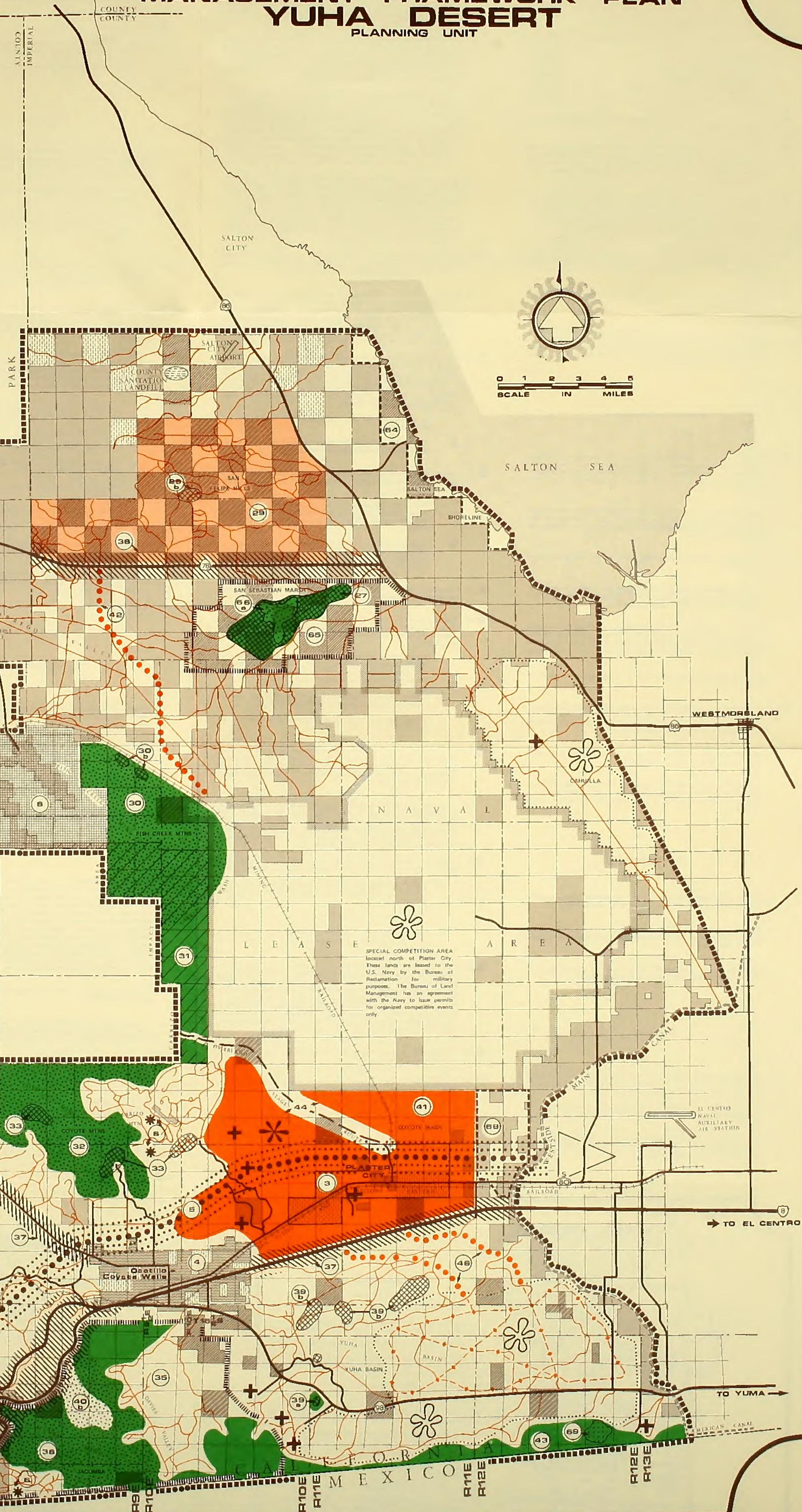
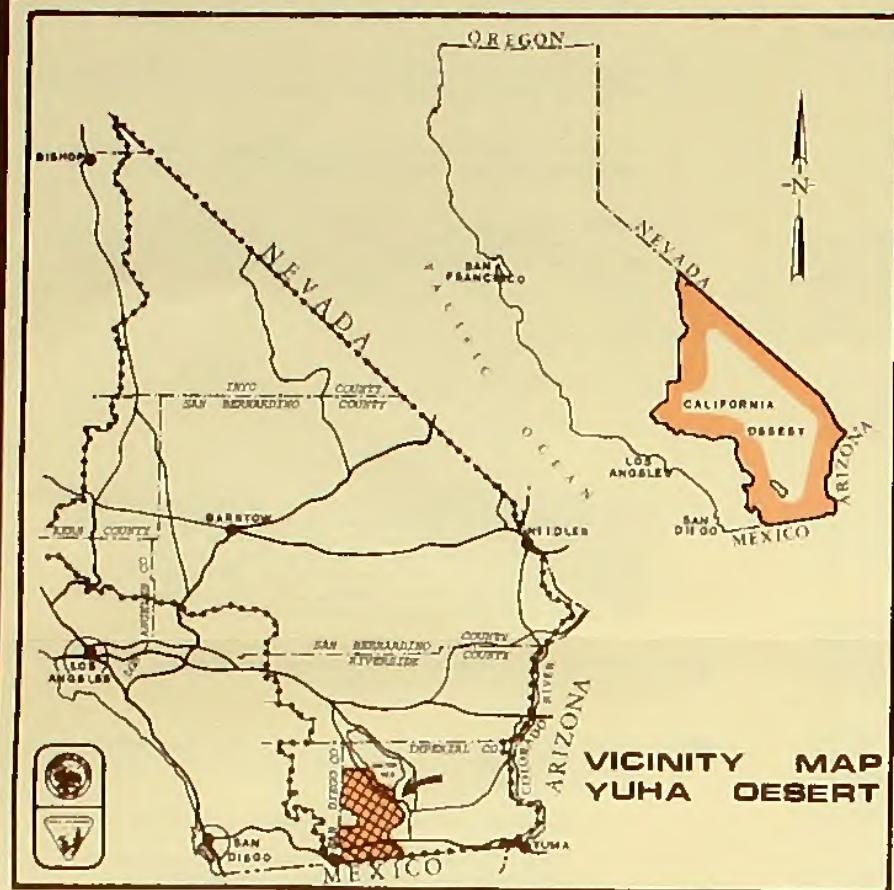




Rendering by Dianne Colcord
Denver, Colorado



MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN YUHA DESERT PLANNING UNIT



MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

YUHA DESERT

PLANNING UNIT

★ REFERS TO NUMBERS ON FRONT PAGE MAP AND LEGEND

ADOPTION DATE: JUNE 26, 1975

LANDS

DECISIONS

- ★ 1. Acquire 61 Sections of private land in the following locations:

e. San Sebastian Marsh	12 Sections
b. San Felipe Hills	29 Sections
c. Fish Creek Mountains	1% Sections
d. Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area	6 Sections
e. Coyote Wash Area	3 Sections
f. Yuhua Basin	8 Sections
g. Salton Sea Shore Line	2 Sections
- ★ 2. Thirteen Sections of government land should be offered as trading stock in a blocking up program.
- ★ 3. As a condition of disposal for Plaster City industrial expansion, BLM should require that the County of Imperial prepare and adopt a specific land use plan for proper development of the land including access, development standards and environmental control, i.e., air, noise and water pollution, so that adjacent public land will be protected.
- ★ 4. After careful review by the Imperial County Planning Commission of all interposed public land lying within the Coyote Valley, the potential urban growth area, sites identified as revenue for public service facilities (schools, buildings, park) should be reserved for public purposes. Other public land parcels classified for disposal should be used as exchange for other private or state lands.
- ★ 5. Permit utility corridor (general location shown on map) in a manner which will minimize visual intrusion on monolithic landscape and avoid geologically fragile smoke tree washes.
- ★ 6. Reserve sites shown on map (east of and adjacent to Coyote Mountain Primitive Area and ridge line south of Smuggler's Cave near the Mexican Border) for potential communication facilities.
- 7. Recommend to Imperial County that the long range General Plan be amended to change low density residential land use classification to open space classification. Such classification would be more consistent with the government's intended uses of this area. This recommendation refers to the area adjacent to the northern edge of the parachute test facility.

GEOLOGY-ENERGY-MINERALS

- ★ 8. Manage the west Fish Creek Mountain Area for mineral production and encourage through cooperation with local government and mine operators, (a) mitigation of pollution and other forms of environmental disturbances and (b) rehabilitation of open pits, as reasonably as possible, to their premining status (both topographically and vegetatively).
- 9. Manage the East Coyote Mountain consistent with this area's known and potential mineral resources as well as the area's multiple use criteria. The Bureau of Land Management should encourage geological, geophysical and geochemical surveys to fully realize mineral potential.
- 10. Obtain data on geothermal potential from lease applicants for geologic and mineral interpretive use.
- 11. Initiate an interagency (including private enterprise) plan to define more accurately sources of higher geothermal energy potential within prospective areas as defined in the Geothermal Act of 1970 and subsequent policies.
- 12. Consideration should be given to the potential use of some land in the planning unit for possible development of solar energy. The Bureau of Land Management should encourage and cooperate with other toward development of the source of energy. The proposed Way Station should be a solar climate control building.
- 13. Survey potential sand and gravel areas for other resources before sale of materials and issue of use permits.

- ★ 14. Any proposed land action should be checked against identified areas of potential sand and gravel deposits. Should the proposed area of action lie within an identified potential sand and gravel area, geological and geophysical surveys should be conducted as a prior input to a management decision.

- 15. Sand and gravel sites, shown on the Imperial County General Plan, should be reserved specifically for sand and gravel extraction.
- 16. Recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that after his acceptance of any area proposed for withdrawal from mining activity, but prior to final decision on withdrawal, further investigation of mineral potential be undertaken in the respective area.

SOIL AND WATERSHED

- 17. Prevent or retard accelerating erosion of soils. Uses which cause increased erosion should be diverted to areas of soil types which can best resist erosion.
- 18. Avoid increased deterioration of desert landscape (scarring of desert surface particularly where natural soil coloration and texture has high potential for damage, i.e., desert pavement areas).
- 19. Decisions for all projects and activities upstream of the San Sebastian Marsh area should be made in consideration of impact upon ground water levels.

RECREATION

- 20. Initiate a comprehensive physical protection program for fragile and irreplaceable natural cultural features within the unit, such as petroglyphs, intaglios, geologic formations, historic sites, and rare or endangered species.
- 21. Environmental Study Plots (ESP) should be established and monitored in heavy use recreation areas in order to assess environmental impact trends of recreational activities.
- 22. Develop a selective roadside and highway sign program in which attractive and informative signs identify BLM land and specific recreational features and sites, and expand the program as capabilities permit.

- 23. A mapping and strategic system of signing desert roads and trails at major access points should be undertaken for the management of vehicle use. This program will protect resources while guiding users to the best recreation opportunities on national resource lands.
- 24. A comprehensive interpretive prospectus should be prepared to lay the basis for a coordinated interpretive program within the Yuhua Planning Unit. This prospectus should identify and integrate such interpretive needs as personnel, nature trail, wayside exhibits, prints, publications, and way stations (interpretive centers) and other media. This comprehensive plan would coordinate individual trail interpretive plan for specific areas of natural and cultural significance.
- 25. Camping should be restricted in areas of natural and cultural fragility where the concentration of unregulated camping may impact these values. In such cases, camping should either be prohibited or concentrated in designated sites of delineated extant and predetermined carrying capacity. With the anticipated use of the primitive areas recommended in this plan, consideration should be given to the ultimate development of designated campgrounds on the peripheries of primitive areas to serve primitive area users. Within the primitive areas, sites should be located for backpacker campsites when intensity of overnight use within primitive areas approaches recreational carrying capacity. Ultimately, backpackers may be necessary to preserve natural values and maximum user satisfaction.
- 26. A Way Station or Way Stations (interpretive centers) should be developed within the Yuhua Planning Unit to serve as interpretive link between the Bureau of Land Management and the public. The way station(s) should be located using the following criteria: (a) the site should be visible from a major highway which serves as a major transportation artery for desert users coming from the metropolitan areas; (b) the site should generally be located where the majority of desert users would have an opportunity to be contacted prior to reaching the heavily used areas of national resource lands; and (c) it should be sited and developed in physical and aesthetic harmony with the natural desert scene.

- ★ 27. Develop a detailed use and management plan for the San Sebastian area including historic Harper's Well and the city of the village of San Sebastian. This would include vehicular access, walking paths, signs and interpretive facilities.

- 28. Work with Imperial County to effect shooting controls within the San Sebastian Outstanding Natural Area under County ordinances for public safety. Desirable controls include: (a) administration of rifle, pistol and bow shooting from the recommendation area, (b) restriction of shotgun shooting within 600 feet of the access route through the recommendation area, (c) limitation of shotgun shooting within 600 feet of interpretive sites and designated access trail (shooting range), and (d) a cooperative signing effort to identify restricted and closed shooting areas.

- ★ 29. Designate the San Felipe Hills Area "Special Design" for vehicle use and initiate a program to acquire the interposed private lands. The designation Special Design recognizes unusual geologic, scenic and interpretive values in the bubbling mud pots, artesian well, sandstone concretions and interesting formations which occur in this area. Accordingly, vehicular use in these areas should be limited to designated roads and trails, and every effort should be made to secure these features against destruction and collection.

- a. For purposes of public safety, hunting should be prohibited within the special design area.
- ★ b. Develop a site interpretive plan for the concretion area to include self-guiding devices, wayside exhibits and interpretive trails.

- ★ 30. Designate the east Fish Creek Mountains as a Primitive Area (43 CFR Sec. 6221) in order to protect and best manage this roadless area of diverse geological and archaeological features.

- a. Develop this interpretive plan for significant natural and cultural features. Primitive values will be maintained through use of unobtrusive interpretive methods, such as small, guided horse groups and self-guiding leaflets.

- ★ b. Develop a protective and interpretive plan for the archaeological features located along the eastern portion of the Fish Creek Mountains. This plan should include vehicular access closure, fencing, interpretive signs, self-guiding trails, or ranger conducted interpretive hikes.

- ★ 31. Protect human safety. "Close" Carrizo Impact Hazard Area to all public use and post warning of contamination.

- ★ 32. Establish a Coyote Mountain Primitive Area as shown on map to protect and best manage this rugged area of badlands, unusual geological formations, outstanding paleontological significance, and noteworthy potential as a biological sanctuary (43 CFR 6221).

- a. Manage Coyote Mountain Primitive Area in accordance with a recreation activity plan and interpretive plan. Initially there will be no trails or primitive camp sites within the primitive area. However, the need for these could be reassessed with increasing visitor use.

- b. Collecting should be excluded in the Primitive Area and adjacent outstanding natural areas to preserve paleontological values.

- c. Remove refuse from area and obliterate mining and road scars as practicable.

- ★ 33. Special attention should be given to interpretation of prime features in and adjacent to the Primitive Area, such as Fossil Shell Bed, Fossil Canyon, and Painted Gorge. Interpretive methods employed within the Primitive Area should be unobtrusive upon primitive values and might thus be limited to small guided hikes, and self-guiding leaflets.

- 34. In view of the unusual scenic facilities and natural values of Painted Gorge the BLM should develop a management plan and protective measures for Painted Gorge to include: (a) emphasis on protection of seeps, end of road area, special floral values; (b) clean up of refuse, (c) limitation of camp sites to mouth of Gorge and away from areas with special floral and faunal values, and (d) installation of interpretive signs illustrative of biologic and geologic features.

- ★ 35. Establish the Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area in recognition of its diversity of significant natural features and the need to manage the area as a compatible unit.

- a. Develop a recreation activity plan for the Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area to show roads, hiking trails, camp sites, interpretive sites, and other features.

- b. Remove, where practicable, debris and refuse.

- c. Limit hunting within the Outstanding Natural Area to the Smuggler's Cave area in order to maintain solitude, and protect user and the Peninsular Bighorn.

- ★ 36. Establish an In-Ko-Pah Primitive Area within the Outstanding Natural Area and prepare and submit a request for withdrawal from mineralized public lands to the Secretary of the Interior to protect and preserve natural values and public land status. Submit request to the Secretary of the Interior with recommendation that after acceptance the investigation of mineral potential be conducted prior to final action on the withdrawal. This procedure will provide for immediate protection of the known nonrenewable resources and primitive values but will withhold final judgment on permanent withdrawal until the "not fully known" mineral potential is further studied. In the interim, existing valid mineral rights are not affected.

- ★ 37. Establish Scenic Corridors along Imperial Highway and Interstate 8 to maintain visual aesthetics along these routes.

- ★ 38. Establish a Scenic Corridor, one-half mile wide, on both sides of Highway 78 in order to maintain visual aesthetics along this popular route to Anza-Borrego State Park (43 CFR Sec. 6222.0-6).

- 39. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 40. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 41. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 42. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 43. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 44. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 45. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 46. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 47. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- 48. Develop site interpretive and protection plan for the following areas of natural and cultural significance:

- a. Eriogonum Thornei:

- (1) Eliminate overnight camping and camp fires from area.

- (2) Restrict access to a site into the fenced area.

- (3) Develop interpretive plan.

- ★ b. Yuhua Basin: (Yuhua Well, Intaglios, Vista de Anza and Oyster Beds)

- (1) Research Military records to determine area used for practice range and to determine probable degree of hazard to recreation activity.

- (2) Develop interpretive plan to identify access, signs, protective devices, etc.

VEHICLE PLAN

- 40. The California Desert Vehicle Management Program: "BLM Critical Management Program for Vehicle Use on the California Desert," dated November 1, 1974, is amended within the boundaries of the Yuhua Desert Planning Unit as described below and shown on the summary map:

- a. Vehicle use in areas not designated "open" or "closed" shall be limited to designated roads as shown on the map.

- ★ b. Limited vehicle travel will be allowed in Meysr's Valley by permit provided that permission to access is granted by the State of California Department of Transportation. The Bureau will monitor impacts on wildlife and other resource values.

- ★ 41. Modify Plaster City "open" vehicle use area to conform to proposed area outlined on this plan. Competitive events to be changed from BLM competitive event system to Sponsor-Opinion Competitive Event Course (see California Desert Vehicle Program).

- ★ 42. Establish vehicle corridor in the Lower San Felipe area and designate roads and trails for vehicle use to avoid direct access to sensitive archaeological sites, rare stands of Desert Buckwheat, wildlife habitat and areas highly susceptible to erosion. Plan a system of trails for competitive events within the eastern portion of the basin.

- ★ 43. A portion of the area between Highway 98 and the Mexican Border should be "closed" to vehicle activity and managed to discourage all forms of recreation use that would interfere with wildlife values. This closure will also aid in the control of illegal entry by alien (Immigration Service) and narcotics (U.S. Customs). It is recommended that the following management guidelines be utilized:

- a. Vehicle use, as well as other recreation activities, not be permitted within approximate one-half mile of the United States-Mexico Border.

- b. The BLM designate all race courses.

- c. All pit areas be located near Highway 98.

- d. The Area Manager review all proposed races with a representative of the Border Patrol and Customs Service.

- e. One designated crossing point be established across the smoke tree wash for vehicles.

- f. Vehicles not be permitted in areas of sensitive and rare vegetative stands.

- g. No camping should be permitted on Pinto Wash.

- ★ 44. A corridor one mile wide, as shown on map, permits vehicle use on the historic Overland Stage Route ONLY and limits vehicle crossing of this historic trail to not more than three designated points.

- ★ 45. Establish courses for the Yuhua Basin competitive event area. Avoid access to sensitive archaeological sites, rare stands of desert buckwheat, wildlife habitat and areas highly susceptible to erosion.

<ul style="list-style

